

2014 Tippecanoe County Prosecutor's Office in the News

December 31, 2014: Lafayette Journal and Courier

Flight risk costs homicide suspect \$500K bond

Ron Wilkins, rwilkins@jconline.com

William Alexander Paz's car was packed, apparently ready to leave town when Lafayette police caught up with him Saturday during their investigation of the body found Christmas morning.

Because of this, police believe Paz, 42, is a flight risk, and his bond was set Monday at \$500,000 cash, according to a hearing Tuesday afternoon.

On Monday, Tippecanoe County Criminal Magistrate Sean Persin approved prosecutors' request for a 72-hour extension to file charges against Paz. That gives prosecutors until Friday to file formal charges, or Paz will be released from jail.

Since Paz, who is not a U.S. citizen, did not appear to understand Monday's proceedings, a second hearing was held Tuesday with a Spanish translator.

Lafayette police have accused Paz of failure to report a dead body, false information, assisting a criminal with murder, possession of false government documents and obstruction of justice, according to jail records and Tuesday's hearing.

During the hearing, Paz told the court he did not understand the false government document allegations, saying that his paperwork is authentic. Persin instructed Paz that it is a preliminary accusation, and he has not been formally charged with that yet.

Paz said he's been in Lafayette for three years and works at a restaurant. Through the translator, he told the court he is talking with his family to determine if they can afford to hire an attorney to represent him. Persin informed Paz that if he did not have an attorney by Friday, the court would appoint one for him.

Calls and emails to Lafayette police detectives for comment about Paz's arrest and preliminary charges were not returned Tuesday or Wednesday.

When charges are filed, the probable cause affidavit detailing the allegations against Paz will be unsealed, but for now it — as well as the search warrants pertaining to the investigation into the body found Christmas morning — are not open for public inspection.

Police have worked all week trying to find out how the man found dead Christmas morning along Sagamore Parkway died and who killed him. So far, Paz, who was arrested Saturday night, appears to be the only person in custody associated with the killing.

A passer-by noticed the body lying beside the road about 7:30 a.m. Christmas Day and reported it to police, and a neighbor who lives across the street said the body was dressed only in boxer shorts and socks.

An autopsy Saturday determined the death was a homicide, but Tippecanoe County Coroner Donna Avolt refused to comment on the victim's injuries.

December 31, 2014: TCPSN

Shaniqua Loreign Pratchett, 24, of Lafayette, IN was charged today with Battery Committed by Means of a Deadly Weapon (Level 5 Fel) by the Tippecanoe County Prosecutor's office.

December 30, 2014: TCPSN

Clarence Coats, Jr, 20, of Lafayette, IN was charged today with two (2) counts of Forgery (C Fel), three (3) counts of Theft (D Fel), and Attempted Theft (D Fel) by the Tippecanoe County Prosecutor's office.

December 26, 2014: TCPSN

Emily Michelle Mortenson, 35, of Lafayette, IN has been charged with Possession of a Narcotic Drug within 1,000 feet of Sunnyside School and Columbian Park (B Fel), Dealing in Marijuana within 1,000 feet of Sunnyside School and Columbian Park in excess of 30 grams (C Fel), Dealing in Marijuana in excess of 30 grams but less than 10 lbs. (D Fel), Possession of Marijuana in excess of 30 grams (D Fel), Maintaining a Common Nuisance (D Fel), Possession of Paraphernalia (A Misd), and two (2) counts of Neglect of a Dependent (D Fel) by the Tippecanoe County Prosecutor's office.

December 24, 2014: TCPSN

Reginald Demarr Green, 23, from Detroit, MI, currently in the Alabama DOC, was sentenced today to 2 years for is guilty plea to Criminal Gang Activity (D Fel). The charge arose from an incident that occurred on September 9, 2009 at McCutcheon High School when Green, a Vice Lord gang member, and fellow gang associates battered a student who was a Gangster Disciple gang member. The co-defendants in this case are Jamale Shawn Robinson and Isaiah Holman.

Sentence breakdown: IDOC 1 yr., Probation 1 yr. supervised probation; Terms of Probation: waive 4th Amendment Rights.; submit to random drug screens; take G.E.D. class or high school diploma equivalent; WorkOne/Workforce Development Program; substance abuse evaluation/follow all recommendations; no contact with the victim. Sentence is consecutive to Alabama case and any other case he was arrested and convicted for while out on bond.

December 18, 2014: TCPSN

Claude Thomas Snowden III, 25, of Lafayette, IN was charged today with Burglary (Level 4 Fel), Theft (Level 6 Fel), Auto Theft (Level 6 Fel), Possession of a Schedule IV Controlled Substance (A Misd), Possession of a Synthetic Drug or Synthetic Drug Lookalike Substance (A Misd), Possession of Paraphernalia (A Misd), Resisting Law Enforcement (A Misd), and Operating a Vehicle While Suspended (A Misd) by the Tippecanoe County Prosecutor's office.

December 17, 2014: WLFITV

Man drunkenly flees from deputy, with two children in vehicle

LAFAYETTE, Ind. (WLF) – A Lafayette man who prosecutors said was drunk with two kids in the vehicle when he fled during a traffic stop faces several criminal charges.

According to court documents, a Tippecanoe County deputy saw Michael Hood, 40, run a stop sign on Dec. 11, shortly before 8 p.m. The deputy said as he got out of his car, Hood sped off, running through six more stop signs and hitting a parked vehicle. The deputy lost sight of Hood, but later found the SUV in a parking lot on Romig Street in Lafayette.

Hood was later found at a home on South 14th Street and had a BAC that tested at .13. Court documents state that Hood's 12-year-old and 9-year-old children were in the vehicle during the chase.

He faces 11 charges. Six are felonies, including neglect of a dependent.

December 17, 2014: TCPSN

Michael Robert Hood, 40, of Lafayette, IN was charged today with two (2) counts of Neglect of a Dependent (Level 6 Fel), Resisting Law Enforcement (Level 6 Fel), Resisting Law Enforcement (A Misd), Operating a Vehicle with at

Least 0.08 Gram of Alcohol But Less Than 0.15 Gram of Alcohol (C Misd), two (2) counts of Operating a Vehicle While Intoxicated (C Misd), Operating a Vehicle With at Least 0.08 of Alcohol But Less Than 0.15 of Alcohol With a Minor Passenger in Vehicle (Level 6 Fel), Operating a Vehicle While Intoxicated With a Minor Passenger in Vehicle (Level 6 Fel), Leaving the Scene of an Accident Involving an Unattended Vehicle (B Misd), and Operating While A Habitual Traffic Violator (Level 6 Fel) by the Tippecanoe County Prosecutor's office.

December 16, 2014: TCPSN

Elias Zamot, 19, from Munster, IN was sentenced to 8 years after he was found guilty of Battery with a Deadly Weapon (C Fel), Possession of Cocaine (C Fel), and Receiving Stolen Property (D Fel). Sentence breakdown: IDOC - 4 years purposeful incarceration, Probation - 4 years supervised, Waiver of 4th amendment, Complete WorkOne counseling, Complete substance abuse evaluation follow recommendation, No contact with victims

December 15, 2014: TCPSN

Co-defendants Shuntae Gaither, 25, of Decatur, GA, Deontrae Joshua Goolsby, 26, of Atlanta, GA, Jerimiah Joseph Struchen, 26, Timothy Joel Holt, 59, and Michael Lee Crave, 32, all three from Indianapolis, IN were charged with Conspiracy to Commit Fraud on a Financial Institution today by the Tippecanoe County Prosecutor's office.

December 12, 2014: Tippecanoe County Prosecutor

Online Scam Alert – From the Tippecanoe County Prosecutor:

Below is an email scam that I received today. My office would like to remind the public that the Holiday Season is one of active frauds like this to steal personal and financial information. These emails are designed to appear legitimate, but are not. If you receive emails like this, that appear to be from a credit card company, bank, or even department store, do not respond to it. Do not provide any personal information. If you have any questions, look up the fraud or customer service number on your personal credit card, usually located on the back, and call directly to inquire about the email.

As can be seen in the email I received, they request I "verify" and update my account by providing personal information, which, if this were from Wells Fargo, they would already have and therefore should not be asking for. An obvious clue is the request for my social security number and driver's license. This is another indication the email is fraudulent.

In the event you responded to this type of email, please call your credit card company immediately to report it. If your card has been fraudulently used, contact your local law enforcement agency in addition to your credit card company.

(Another clue is that I do not have an account with Wells Fargo)

Patrick K. Harrington
Tippecanoe County Prosecutor

-----Original Message-----

From: Wells Fargo Online [mailto:onlinebanking@wellsfargo.com]

Sent: Friday, December 12, 2014 10:08 AM

To: [REDACTED]

Subject: Unauthorized activity on your online account

Wells Fargo online customer services

We detected some unusual activity on your Wells Fargo account.

We need your help resolving this issue with your account.

To give us time to work on this we've temporarily limited what you can do with your account until the issue is resolved.

For your account protection, we have sent you a secure attachment which contains all the necessary information we need to verify and update your account.

In order to verify your account please download the attached file, fill out the required information and save your profile.

We are sorry for any inconveniences this may have caused you.

Regards,

Wells Fargo Banking Department

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December 12, 2014: WLFI TV

18-month-old child's head injury leads to arrest

LAFAYETTE, Ind. (WLFI) — A child's severe head injury lands a man in jail.

Timothy Grissom, 22, of Lebanon, Ind., was arrested Thursday after an 18-month-old child was brought to Franciscan St. Elizabeth East for treatment of a severe head injury. The child was then transported to Riley Hospital for Children in Indianapolis. Police said the child is still being treated at Riley.

Grissom faces preliminary charges of battery on a child involving serious bodily injury, neglect of a dependent endangering life or health, and possession of marijuana.

Grissom is being held in the Tippecanoe County Jail.

Police said the investigation remains ongoing.

December 11, 2014: Lafayette Journal and Courier

Columbian Park's serial burglar sentenced



Steven Porter

Nicholas Dettman, 18, of Clarks Hill was sentenced Thursday after admitting he and a juvenile accomplice carried out a spree of burglaries in the vicinity of Lafayette's Columbian Park last spring.

Dettman was himself a juvenile until September, but he was waived into adult court in May based on his extensive juvenile criminal record.

While in adult custody, he sustained a broken jaw in June, allegedly at the hands of a fellow inmate in the Tippecanoe County Jail.

Dettman was up on 10 felony charges in total, including eight counts of burglary, which are each punishable by up to 20 years in prison.

Instead of going to trial, he pleaded guilty to three of those burglary counts. He was ordered to serve a 12-year sentence for each charge concurrently.

With good time credit, he'll spend four years in prison then undergo four years of probation.

December 11, 2014: TCPSN

Samuel Booker, Jr, 22, was charged today with Carrying a Handgun without a License within 500 Feet of Washington School (Level 5 Fel), Carrying a Handgun While Having a Prior Felony Conviction (Level 5 Fel), Theft (Level 6 Fel), Resisting Law Enforcement (A Misd), and Possession of Marijuana (B Misd) by the Tippecanoe County Prosecutor's office.

December 11, 2014: TCPSN

Dawn Renee Phillips, 34, was charged today with Battery Committed by Means of a Deadly Weapon (Level 5 Fel), Criminal Recklessness Committed While Armed with a Deadly Weapon (Level 6 Fel), and Domestic Battery (A Misd) by the Tippecanoe County Prosecutor's office.

December 11, 2014: TCPSN

Larry Gunion II, was sentenced today to 4 years for his guilty pleas to Criminal Recklessness Causing Serious Bodily Injury (D Fel) and Habitual Offender. Sentence breakdown: IDOC 3 ½ years, Probation 6 months supervised, Waiver of 4th amendment rights, complete substance abuse evaluation and treatment

December 10, 2014: WLFI TV

4 charged in 2 Lafayette armed robberies

TIPPECANOE COUNTY, Ind. (WLFI) — Four people are facing criminal charges in connection to two armed robberies in Lafayette.

Twenty-six-year-old Miguel Garcia, 33-year-old Jacob Lumbley, 19-year-old Tiffany Mounts and 18-year-old Aaron Arnold are facing charges for the robbery on Nov. 1 at the Speedway gas station on Elmwood Avenue, as well as the robbery on Nov. 5 at the Village Pantry on Sixth and Union streets.

As News 18 previously reported, police say Lumbley and Garcia entered the Speedway gas station armed with a handgun and got away with money, cigarettes and the clerk's cellphone.

In the other incident, police say Lumbley, Mounts and Garcia walked into the VP with a shotgun. Then they took money, cigarettes and other items.

The three suspects used the shot gun provided by Arnold to rob the VP, while Arnold stood as lookout in the alley.

December 10, 2014: TCPSN

Jessica Marie Gobel AKA Jessica Marie Dienhart, 26, and Anthony Lee Hall, 51, were both charged today with Possession of a Firearm by a Serious Violent Felon (Level 4 Fel) by the Tippecanoe County Prosecutor's office.

December 10, 2014: TCPSN

Ricky Levale Johnson, 29, was charged today with Possession of a Firearm by a Serious Violent Felon (Level 4 Fel) and Criminal Recklessness Committed While Armed with a Deadly Weapon (Level 6 Fel) by the Tippecanoe County Prosecutor's office.

December 10, 2014: TCPSN

Aaron David Arnold, 18, was charged today with Conspiracy to Commit Robbery While Armed with a Deadly Weapon (Level 3 Fel), Robbery Committed with a Deadly Weapon (Level 3 Fel), two (2) counts of Criminal Confinement While Armed with a Deadly Weapon (Level 3 Fel), and two (2) counts of Theft (A Misd). Co-defendants in the armed robbery of the Village Pantry at 6th and Union Streets in Lafayette, IN on November 5, 2014 and the armed robbery of the Speedway Station on October 31, 2014, on Miguel (nmi) Garcia, 27, Jacob Rufus Lumbley, 33, and Tiffany Dawn Mounts, 18.

December 9, 2014: TCPSN

James E Booth, Jr, 31, of Memphis, TN was charged today with Attempted Burglary (Level 4 Fel), Battery Against a Public Safety Official with Bodily Fluid or Waste (Level 6 Fel), two (2) counts of Intimidation (Level 6 Fel), Battery Committed Against a Public Safety Official (Level 6 Fel), Resisting Law Enforcement (Level 6 Fel) and Disarming a Law Enforcement Officer (Level 5 Fel) by the Tippecanoe County Prosecutor's office.

December 9, 2014: WLFI TV**Lafayette woman charged in stabbing case**

TIPPECANOE COUNTY, Ind. (WLFI) — A Lafayette woman has been charged with two felonies for allegedly stabbing her boyfriend last week.

Toneesha Thompson, 21, faces one charge of battery with a deadly weapon and one charge of criminal recklessness.

Police were called to a domestic disturbance at Claystone at the Crossing Apartments early morning Dec. 4. That's when officers found Michael Lee with a stab wound to his shoulder.

Thompson told investigators they started arguing and she accidentally stabbed Lee. Lee told investigators she threatened to stab him again if he moved.

Police found the knife next to Thompson's bed where her newborn was sleeping.

December 5, 2014: WLFI TV**Gary man sentenced for Lafayette armed robbery**

LAFAYETTE, Ind. (WLFI) — A Gary man was sentenced to more than two decades in prison for an armed robbery in Lafayette earlier this year.

Lawrence Anderson, 24, was found guilty last month of seven felonies including burglary, robbery and battery on a pregnant woman. He was sentenced to 25 years behind bars and five years supervised probation.

As News 18 previously reported, police were called to Eckman Drive on the city's south side in February. Officers say armed with a gun, Anderson forced his way into the apartment along with a woman and two other men.

Court documents say Anderson hit a resident who was 12 weeks pregnant. Anderson and the men later got away with a safe and a PlayStation.

December 4, 2014: WLFI TV

Former West Lafayette firefighter charged with theft

TIPPECANOE COUNTY, Ind. (WLFI) – A former West Lafayette firefighter is charged with theft after allegedly shoplifting from Wal-Mart.

Lauren Giunta faces one count of misdemeanor theft. The incident occurred on Oct. 15. Prosecutors said Giunta stole \$55 worth of screws and calipers from the Wal-Mart in Lafayette.

Giunta was West Lafayette's first female firefighter, but has since resigned.

News 18 reached out to West Lafayette Fire Chief Tim Heath. Heath said he was unaware of the charges, but said his firefighters are held to a high standard.

If convicted, Giunta could face up to a year in prison as well as a \$5,000 fine.

December 4, 2014: TCPSN

Lawrence Anderson, 24, of Gary, Indiana was sentenced today to 30 years after a Tippecanoe County jury found him guilty last month of Conspiracy to commit burglary (B Fel), Burglary (A Fel), Conspiracy to commit robbery (B Fel), Robbery (B Fel), Theft (D Fel), Battery (C Fel) and Battery on pregnant woman (C Fel). Sentence breakdown: 25 years IDOC, 5 years Supervised Probation

December 4, 2014: TCPSN

Carl Rene Bosby, of Chicago, IL was found guilty by a Tippecanoe County jury on the following counts today: Count 1: Dealing in Cocaine (A Fel); Count 2: Possession of Cocaine (B Fel); Count 3: Dealing in Cocaine (A Fel); Count 4: Possession of Cocaine (B Fel); and Count 5: Conspiracy to Commit Dealing in a Look Alike Substance (C Fel). The Defendant waived jury for the second phase and Count 6: Habitual Offender (Sentencing Enhancement) was taken under advisement until this Friday, December 5 at 9am. At that time, the Court will pronounce its verdict on Count 6 and schedule the sentencing hearing.

December 3, 2014: WLFI TV

Man faces up to 62 years on drug-related charges



TIPPECANOE CO., Ind. (WLFI) – A Richmond man faces up to 62 years in prison after being found guilty on five drug-related charges.

Tippecanoe County prosecutors say a jury convicted 29-year-old Carl Bosby on various felony charges including two counts of dealing cocaine and one count of conspiracy to deal a look alike substance.

As News 18 has reported in May of last year, Bosby sold cocaine to an undercover officer twice at the Village Pantry on Union Street. The following month, prosecutors say Bosby arranged for a different person to sell the officer heroin. However, police said the substance was not heroin.

He faces up to 50 years on the drug charges. If convicted on a habitual offender charge on Friday, he could get an extra 12 years behind bars

December 3, 2014: WLFI TV

Man gets prison time after February burglary



TIPPECANOE CO., Ind. (WLFI) – A Lafayette man is sentenced to eight years in prison after pleading guilty to burglary.

Tippecanoe County prosecutors said in February, sheriff's deputies were called to a home on County Road 375 South after neighbors saw two people on the property while the homeowners were at work.

After officers arrived, the two men ran off. Casey Kimbrell, 19, was caught by a K-9 a short time later.

The homeowners reported nothing appeared to be missing, but said their things had been looked through.

Kimbrell was also sentenced to two years of probation.

December 3, 2014: TCPSN

Michael Scott Garrett, 31, of Lafayette, IN has been charged with Dealing in Methamphetamine (Level 2 Fel), Possession of Methamphetamine (Level 3 Fel), Possession of Paraphernalia (A Misd), Maintaining a Common Nuisance (Level 6 Fel), and Operating While an Habitual Traffic Violator (Level 6 Fel) by the Tippecanoe County Prosecutor's office.

December 3, 2014: TCPSN

Robert Jacob Thigpen, 24, of Lafayette, IN was charged today with three (3) counts of Robbery Committed While Armed with a Deadly Weapon (Level 3 Fel), three (3) counts of Theft (A Misd), three (3) counts of Carrying a Handgun Without a License (A Misd), and Resisting Law Enforcement (A Misd) by the Tippecanoe County Prosecutor's office.

December 2, 2014: TCPSN

Casey Kimbrell, 19, of Lafayette, IN has been sentenced to 10 years for his guilty plea to Burglary (B Fel). Sentence breakdown: 8 years: DOC - recommended for Purposeful Incarceration, 2 years: Probation - supervised.

December 2, 2014: TCPSN

William Robert Brandenburg, 47, of Lafayette, IN was charged today with Possession of Methamphetamine (Level 6 Fel), Possession of a Synthetic Drug or Synthetic Drug Lookalike Substance (A Misd), Possession of a Syringe (Level 6 Fel), and Possession of a Syringe with a Prior Conviction (Level 5 Fel) by the Tippecanoe County Prosecutor's office.

December 1, 2014: TCPSN

Michael R. Clark, 43, of Otterbein, IN has been charged with Child Molesting (Level 1 Fel) by the Tippecanoe County Prosecutor's office.

November 26, 2014: WLFITV

Charges filed on man who used note in VP robbery

TIPPECANOE COUNTY, Ind. (WLFI) — Charges have been filed on a man police say was involved in a Monday robbery at a Lafayette Village Pantry.

On Monday, police arrested 22-year-old Joshua Josleyn, of Lafayette, for a robbery at the VP on N. 14th Street. Wednesday, he has been charged with robbery, theft, resisting law enforcement and possession of paraphernalia.

According to court documents, upon entering the store he gave the clerk a note which read "put the money on the table or I'll blow your brains out." The clerk then opened the cash drawer and gave the suspect the contents of the register. She said the individual left the store and fled the scene on foot.

Police were able to locate Josleyn a short time later using a description of the suspect's clothing provided by the clerk. Police confirmed it was Josleyn using security footage from the VP.

Upon arrest, police also found that Josleyn was wanted on a warrant in Carroll County. He has a criminal history of previous charges of theft and resisting law enforcement.

November 26, 2014: TCPSN

Joshua Russel Joselyn, 22, of Delphi, IN was charged today with Robbery (Level 5 Fel), Theft (A Misd), Resisting Law Enforcement (A Misd), and Possession of Paraphernalia (A Misd) by the Tippecanoe County Prosecutor's office.

November 25, 2014: Lafayette Journal and Courier

Murderer headed back to prison on armed robbery



Steven Porter, sporter@jconline.com

A man who served 14 years on a murder conviction out of Howard County is headed back to prison, this time for robbing a Check Into Cash at gunpoint.

Landon Harbert, 38, stormed the store on Sagamore Parkway in West Lafayette on Oct. 23, 2012 with 38-year-old Malcolm Smith.

A third jury convicted the duo in August after two previous mistrials.

Harbert was sentenced Tuesday to 20 years in prison, the maximum for a Class B felony.

Smith, who was also convicted as a habitual offender, was sentenced to 30 years in prison.

November 25, 2014: The Exponent

Charges filed against alleged tire slasher

A local man accused of slashing nearly 70 car tires has been formally charged by the Tippecanoe County prosecutor's office.

Theophilus Johnson, 19, allegedly spent the night of Nov. 16 walking through the area of Columbia Street slashing tires. According to court documents, about \$14,000 worth of damage was done to a total of 64 vehicles.

An officer was dispatched to the area of the crime where there had been reports of an "Indian or Hispanic male ... wearing a dark coat with a knife slashing tires." The document stated there were visible footprints in the snow around several of the damaged tires.

According to the documents, the officer followed the shoe prints when he saw Johnson and told him to stop. Johnson ignored the commands, the document states, and shoved his hands in his pockets, quickly walking out of sight.

Johnson was arrested on charges of public intoxication and criminal mischief. He is formally charged with 10 counts of criminal mischief.

Johnson has posted bail of \$10,000 and is scheduled for a jury trial on Jan. 20, 2015. If convicted, Johnson could spend as much as six months in jail and pay \$1,000 for every charge in addition to paying for damages to the vehicles.

November 25, 2014: TCPSN

Landon Harbert, 38, has been sentenced to 20 years (IDOC) after a Tippecanoe County jury found him guilty of Robbery with A Deadly Weapon in the armed robbery of Check Into Cash in West Lafayette, IN.

November 21, 2014: The Exponent

Man charged with battery on 7-year-old son

A West Lafayette man believed to be a Purdue student is accused of striking his son.

Daniel Fabrici, 21, has been charged with felony battery on a child after the mother of the child brought the child into the St. Elizabeth Hospital emergency room for treatment of bruises on Oct. 17. According to court documents, a nurse noted the seven-week-old child had a "suspicious bruise" on the right side of his face which appeared to have the outline of a hand.

The documents state the mother had left the child with Fabrici between 5 and 11:55 a.m. During that time, Fabrici told investigators, there were points of time that he took his child for a 45-minute drive because he couldn't get the child the calm down.

Fabrici acknowledged the injury to the child and said he hadn't noticed an injury earlier in the day.

A warrant order has been issued for Fabrici with a bond set for \$10,000. A no contact order has also been granted by the court. If convicted, he would face a one- to six-year sentence.

November 21, 2014: TCPSN

Thalia J. Banda, 25, of Lafayette, IN was charged today with Neglect of a Dependent (Level 6 Fel) by the Tippecanoe County Prosecutor's office.

November 21, 2014: Lafayette Journal and Courier

Dad accused of slapping 7-week-old son

Steven Porter, sporter@jconline.com

Daniel Fabrici, 21, of West Lafayette was charged Thursday with battering his 7-week-old son last month while his wife was at school.

The boy was taken by his mother to the emergency room at St. Elizabeth Hospital on Oct. 17, when medical staff noted multiple bruises on the newborn's face.

A nurse told investigators that one of the bruises "appears to be the size of an adult hand print," court documents state, and a doctor said a second bruise appeared to be "the outline of two fingers and possibly part of the palm."

Fabrici acknowledged that his son was injured but denied abusing him, offering several theories as to how his son's bruises came about, according to a probable cause affidavit.

He said he'd grown frustrated the morning of Oct. 17 and took the baby on a 45-minute car ride in attempts to calm him down.

If convicted on the battery charge, he faces a sentence of one to six years.

November 20, 2014: TCPSN

Daniel J. Fabrici, 22, of West Lafayette, IN was charged today with Battery on a Child Resulting in Bodily Injury (Level 5 Fel) by the Tippecanoe County Prosecutor's office.

November 20, 2014: TCPSN

Ronnie T. Austin, 27, of Lafayette, IN has been charged with Battery on a Child Resulting in Serious Bodily Injury (Level 3 Fel), and Neglect of a Dependent Resulting in Serious Bodily Injury (Level 3 Fel) by the Tippecanoe County Prosecutor's office.

November 17, 2014: WLFI TV

Woman charged for meth possession

TIPPECANOE CO., Ind. (WLFI) – A Tippecanoe County woman faces multiple drug charges after items used to make meth are found in her truck and home.

According to court documents, police pulled over Karen Turnpaugh, 49, for a traffic violation as she was leaving the West Lafayette CVS last week.

A K-9 alerted officers to a narcotic odor, and they found several items used to make meth including pseudoephedrine pills.

When they searched her home on the 1000 block east of County Road 800 North, they found evidence of old meth labs.

She faces six felony counts and one misdemeanor including meth possession and possession of a firearm by a serious violent felon.

November 17, 2014: WLFI TV

Man gets six years for robbing delivery man



LAFAYETTE, Ind. (WLFI) – A Lafayette man is sentenced to prison for robbing a sandwich delivery man outside of the apartment where he was staying.

Tippecanoe County prosecutors said Zachary Collins, 22, robbed a man on the 900 block of 21st Street in Lafayette in May. The victim told police he met with a man named Zach who said he ordered the food. When the delivery man went to break a \$100 bill, Zach grabbed his wallet and ran off.

Witnesses directed officers to the nearby apartment where Collins was staying.

He pleaded guilty last month to a felony charge of robbery and was sentenced Monday to two years in prison, two years in community corrections and two years of probation.

November 17, 2014: WLFI TV

Man passes out on heroin while caring for young children



LAFAYETTE, Ind. (WLFI) – A Lafayette man is sentenced to three years in prison for using heroin while his two young children were in the house.

In June, prosecutors said police were called to a home on the 1900 block of Morton Street where Tadd Mayhew, 28, and another man were passed out in the bathroom. The mother of Mayhew's children told police she had left their children with Mayhew while she went to work.

Mayhew pleaded guilty last month to felony counts of narcotic possession and neglect of a dependent. He was sentenced Monday to three years in prison and one year in community corrections.

November 17, 2014: WLFI TV

Man sentenced to 15 years for making meth in motel



LAFAYETTE, Ind. (WLFI) – A West Lafayette man is sentenced to eight years in prison after police found an active meth lab in a motel room this spring.

Prosecutors said Lafayette police got information in May that meth was being made inside a motel room at the Economy Inn. When they arrived, they smelled a strong chemical odor coming from the room. They found Jeremy Richardson, 29, and a woman inside along with an active meth lab.

Richardson pleaded guilty last month and was sentenced Monday to eight years in prison, three years in community corrections, and four years of probation.

November 14, 2014: WLFI TV

Cocaine dealer gets 21-year sentence



LAFAYETTE, Ind. (WLFI) – Travis Maberry, 28, of Lafayette gets a 21-year sentence for dealing cocaine.

Maberry pleaded guilty last month to dealing cocaine and being a habitual substance offender.

Tippecanoe County prosecutors say he sold cocaine to a confidential informant in both May and June of 2012. Both deals were at an apartment complex on the 3700 block of McCarty Lane, just east of Creasy.

He was sentenced Friday to 15 years for dealing and an extra six years for being a habitual offender.

November 14, 2014: TCPSN

Travis C. Maberry, 28, of Chicago, IL was sentenced to 21 years IDOC today for his guilty pleas to Dealing in Cocaine (B Fel) and Habitual Offender.

November 13, 2014: WLFI TV

Man found guilty after apartment complex shooting



A jury convicted Bryan Gavin, 32, of all six charges against him, including criminal recklessness with a deadly weapon, serious violent felon in possession of a firearm and neglect of a dependent.

As News 18 has reported, in October of 2013, officers were called to Cambridge Estates where prosecutors say Gavin shot a man in the hip. He drove away from the scene with his wife's 3-year-old daughter.

Gavin was pulled over near the intersection of U.S. 52 and State Road 38 and taken into custody. A loaded handgun was found under the front seat.

Prosecutors said Gavin told officers the man he shot was the ex-boyfriend of an acquaintance.

Sentencing is set for Dec. 12. Gavin could get anywhere from nine to 31 years.

November 13, 2014: TCPSN

A Tippecanoe County jury found Bryan Gavin, 32, guilty of all charges today-Count 1: Serious Violent Felon in Possession of Firearm (B Fel), Count 2: Battery by Deadly Weapon (C Fel), Count 3: Criminal Recklessness with a Deadly Weapon (C Fel), Count 4: Carrying Handgun w/out License (A Misd), Count 5: Neglect of a Dependent (D Fel), and Count 6: Carrying a Handgun by Convicted Felon (C fel). Sentence range is 9-31 years. Sentencing is scheduled for 12/12/14 at 4pm.

November 12, 2014: TCPSN

Miguel Garcia, 26, Jacob Rufus Lumbley, 33, and Tiffany Dawn Mounts, 19, have been charged by the Tippecanoe County Prosecutor's office with Conspiracy to Commit Robbery While Armed with a Deadly Weapon (Level 3 Fel). Additional charges are as follows:

Garcia

Two (2) counts of Robbery Committed While Armed with a Deadly Weapon (Level 3 Fel), three (3) counts of Criminal Confinement While Armed with a Deadly Weapon (Level 3 Fel), and four (4) counts of Theft (A Misd).

Lumbley

Two (2) counts of Robbery Committed While Armed with a Deadly Weapon (Level 3 Fel), three (3) counts of Criminal Confinement While Armed with a Deadly Weapon (Level 3 Fel), four (4) counts of Theft (A Misd) and Carrying a Handgun Without a License (A Misd)

Mounts

Robbery Committed While Armed with a Deadly Weapon (Level 3 Fel), two (2) counts Criminal Confinement While Armed with a Deadly Weapon (Level 3 Fel), and two (2) counts of Theft (A Misd)

Man nets 30-year sentence for making meth in cellar



By Dan Klein

LAFAYETTE, Ind. (WLFI) – A Lafayette man who was caught making meth in a cellar near his home gets a 30-year sentence.

Tippecanoe County Prosecutor Pat Harrington said a landlord found 32-year-old Daniel O’Harra making meth in the cellar of a home on the 1000 block of Hartford Street in late March. When the landlord went to call 911, O’Harra knocked him down and ran out of the cellar.

O’Harra was arrested later that day at another apartment.

He pleaded guilty in August and was sentenced Friday morning to 20 years in prison, four years of community corrections and six years of probation.

November 7, 2014: WLFITV

Man sentenced after stealing car from woman sleeping in hospital



By Dan Klein

LAFAYETTE, Ind. (WLFI) – A car stolen from a woman sleeping in a hospital waiting room leads to a 28 year prison sentence for an Attica man.

Tippecanoe County Prosecutor Pat Harrington said 40-year-old Eric Lacy, along with a female friend named Lesley Carr, grabbed a hooded sweatshirt with keys inside from a woman sleeping in the waiting room of the Franciscan St. Elizabeth Central ICU in October 2013.

Lafayette police tracked the vehicle down a week later outside an apartment on the 1700 block of Greenbush. Drugs were found inside the apartment.

Lacy was also connected to a pair of burglaries at the same home on Stair Road. The home is owned by an ex-boyfriend of Carr’s. She was sentenced for her role in the crimes last month.

Lacy was convicted on 11 charges last month and was sentenced Friday to 28 years in prison, two years of community corrections and three years of probation.

November 7, 2014: TCPSN

Daniel Ryan O'Harra, 32, of Lafayette, IN was sentenced to 30 years today for his guilty plea to Dealing in Methamphetamine (A Fel). Sentence breakdown: IDOC: 20 years, TCCC: 4 years, Probation: 6 years, 3 supervised, 3 unsupervised; Programs: The Court recommends the Defendant complete the CLIFF Program. The Court did not recommend purposeful incarceration. Special terms - Mental health and substance abuse evaluation.

November 7, 2014: TCPSN

Eric Dean Lacy, 40, of Attica, IN was sentenced to 33 years today after a Tippecanoe County jury found him guilty of Auto Theft (D Fel), Illegal Drug Lab (C Fel), Possession of a Syringe (A Misd), Possession of Paraphernalia (A Misd), Conspiracy to commit Burglary (B Fel), Conspiracy to commit Theft (D Fel), Burglary (C Fel), and two (2) counts of Theft (D Fel) in October. Sentence breakdown: IDOC: 28 yrs., TCCC: 2 yrs. LTBD, Probation: 3 yrs. supervised probation; Programs at IDOC: CLIFF Program; the Court specifically did not recommend the Defendant to the Purposeful Incarceration Program; Terms of Probation: substance abuse evaluation; No Contact Orders for all the victims; Fees; Restitution in the amount of \$29,361.98 - civil judgment entered, joint & several w/ co-defendant; Character Restoration Program or equivalent in IDOC.

November 7, 2014: TCPSN

Erica Marie Shires, 29, of Boswell, IN and Brandon Neal Silva, 34, were charged today with the following:

Shires: Possession of a Narcotic – Heroin (Level 5 Fel), Maintaining a Common Nuisance (D Fel); Silva: Possession of Methamphetamine (Level 5 Fel) by the Tippecanoe County Prosecutor's office.

November 6, 2014: Lafayette Journal and Courier

Trio suspected of gang activity, counterfeiting

Steven Porter, sporter@jconline.com

Police say four stores were duped last week by a trio of suspected gang members passing counterfeit \$100 bills in Lafayette.

The store manager at Party City alerted authorities Oct. 26 after making change for customers who used four \$100 bills with matching serial numbers, court documents state.

Officers then interviewed store managers at a CVS pharmacy, Speedway gas station and Cirilla's adult gift shop, where the trio is suspected of passing a total of \$600 in identical fake bills.

Based on a description provided by the victims, officers tracked down a dark gray minivan with three occupants: 18-year-old Kali Moody, 23-year-old Gifted Mullens and 29-year-old Elijah Robinson.

Robinson denied having any knowledge of the counterfeit money. Mullens admitted spending money at CVS but denied knowing it was fake. Moody initially denied spending counterfeit money.

Moody "later said the money was given to her by 'some guy from Chicago' and that she knew the bills were fake as all had the same serial number," a probable cause affidavit states.

Moody and Mullens have current addresses in Chicago. Robinson lives in Lafayette. All three have Illinois driver's licenses, court documents state.

Forms signed by Tippecanoe County Deputy Prosecutor Robert Dwyer state the defendants are suspected of activity with the "Traveling Vice Lords," identified by the FBI as a street gang based in Chicago.

Moody also told officers she had "several more counterfeit \$100 bills hidden in her vagina," the affidavit states.

Jail staff counted seven.

Patrol officers located two additional bills in the minivan, bringing the total number of counterfeit Benjamins to 18.

Each defendant faces two felony counts for counterfeiting and forgery, plus three misdemeanor counts of theft.

November 6, 2014: Lafayette Journal and Courier

Father charged in house fire that killed twins

Steven Porter, sporter@jconline.com

Brandon Abbott, the 31-year-old father of twin 3-year-old boys who died in a house fire April 5 near Mulberry, was arrested Thursday and charged in connection with their deaths.

Abbott faces two felony charges that he neglected a dependent resulting in death — each is punishable by 20 to 50 years.

He also faces nine felony drug charges and two misdemeanors.

Two search warrants filed in the wake of the fire revealed that authorities suspected there might be guns and a marijuana growing operation inside the house Abbott rented in the 10700 block of Brandy Kay Court.

That suspicion proved valid, according to a probable cause affidavit filed with Abbott's charges this week. Officers found a loaded handgun, more than 200 grams of marijuana in four separate bags and a variety of other drugs, the document states.

As a convicted felon, Abbott is prohibited from possessing a firearm.

Although the cause of the fire remains undetermined, investigators found the blaze originated in a first-floor "black light room," where an exploded propane canister was discovered, the affidavit states.

Abbott told police he used the propane torch in the living room to smoke "dab," a slang term for waxy marijuana extract, court documents state.

He said he'd laid his sons, Landon and Liam, down to sleep on a sofa in the black light room then stayed up until 6 a.m. or later before going to sleep in his own bedroom.

Others in the house that night, including a 16-year-old girl, told detectives Abbott smoked marijuana with them and seemed high on another drug.

A blood test confirmed that Abbott had marijuana and Ecstasy in his system the day of the fire, plus Hydrocodone for which he had a prescription, court documents state.

Nicole Thomas, who'd spent the night with Abbott in his upstairs bedroom, tested positive for marijuana, Ecstasy, Hydrocodone, amphetamine and fentanyl.

Tippecanoe County Prosecutor Pat Harrington said the investigation moved along in a timely fashion. He said the seven months it took to file charges made room to "follow the evidence," track down witnesses, conduct interviews, wait on lab results, conduct follow-up interviews and research specific circumstances of the case.

"Real life is not like a crime show on TV," he said.

In addition to his neglect of a dependent charges, Abbott faces felony charges for allegedly dealing and possessing drugs, maintaining a common nuisance and contributing to the delinquency of a minor.

November 6, 2014: WLFI TV

Father of twins charged after fatal fire

TIPPECANOE COUNTY, Ind. (WLFI) — The father of twin boys who were killed in a Tippecanoe County fire in April now faces 13 charges in connection with their deaths.

Brandon Abbott, 31, faces two counts of neglect of a dependent. Investigators searched his home after the fire and found marijuana and prescription pills. His other charges include possession of a narcotic drug, dealing and possession of marijuana, and maintaining a common nuisance.

Abbott told investigators he had been drinking and used prescription drugs and marijuana the night of the fire. The cause of the fire is undetermined, but investigators say an exploded propane canister with a torch was found in the house.

Abbott says the propane torch was used to smoke "wax" — a slang term for a form of marijuana.

Autopsies on the twin boys showed they died from asphyxia due to inhalation of soot and carbon monoxide poisoning.

Abbott is being held in the Tippecanoe County Jail.

November 6, 2014: WLFI TV

Man charged in Burger King armed robbery

TIPPECANOE COUNTY, Ind. (WLFI) — Prosecutors believe it was a former employee who robbed a Lafayette Burger King with a knife.

Robert Beliles, 32, faces four felony charges, including robbery and criminal confinement. As News 18 reported, Beliles was arrested last Friday.

The incident happened around 10 p.m. on Oct. 7 at the BK restaurant located on Old U.S. 231 in Lafayette. Police say two employees were locked into a walk-in refrigerator during the robbery, while a third employee managed to run to a nearby gas station and call 911.

According to court documents, the robber asked for the assistant manager by name. Prosecutors say Beliles admitted to police he robbed the Burger King to get money for drugs and identified the long-bladed knife as his.

November 6, 2014: TCPSN

Robert Lee Beliles, 32, of Lafayette, IN was charged today with Robbery Committed While Armed with a Deadly Weapon (Level 3 Fel), two (2) counts of Criminal Confinement While Armed with a Deadly Weapon (Level 3 Fel), and Theft (Level 6 Fel) by the Tippecanoe County Prosecutor's office.

November 6, 2014: TCPSN

Brandon Lee Abbott, 31, of Frankfort, IN has been charged with two (2) counts of Neglect of a Dependent Resulting in Death (A Fel), Dealing in a Schedule I Controlled Substance (B Fel), two (2) counts of Possession of a Schedule I Controlled Substance (D Fel), Possession of a Narcotic Drug (C Fel), two (2) counts of Possession of a Schedule II Controlled Substance (D fel), Possession of a Schedule IV Controlled Substance (D fel), Dealing in Marijuana (D Fel), Possession of Marijuana (D Fel), Possession of Paraphernalia (A Misd), Maintaining a Common Nuisance (D Fel), and Contributing to the Delinquency of a Minor (A Misd) by the Tippecanoe County Prosecutor's office following the death investigation of twin 3 year old brothers.

November 6, 2014: TCPSN

Arron Holmes, 18, of Lafayette, IN has been charged with two (2) counts of Child Molesting (B Fel), and one count of Child Molesting (C Fel) by the Tippecanoe County Prosecutor's office.

November 5, 2014: WLFITV

Lafayette woman charged for stealing \$80K from liquor store

By Carla Krajcir

TIPPECANOE COUNTY, Ind. (WLFI) — A Lafayette woman is charged for allegedly stealing more than \$80,000 from her employer.

According to court documents, 31-year-old Chanell Alaniz stole money from the Bedrock Liquors in Shadeland, Ind. several times from March to December of 2013.

The owner of the store, Gregory Boesch, was able to identify Alaniz's actions using store surveillance footage after he discovered a discrepancy in his inventory.

Alaniz faces a total of six felony counts — five counts of theft and one count of information of corrupt business influence.

November 5, 2014: TCPSN

Chanell Belinda Alaniz, 31, of Lafayette, IN was charged today with Corrupt Business Influence (C Fel), and five (5) counts of Theft (D Fel) by the Tippecanoe County Prosecutor's office.

November 5, 2014: TCPSN

Aubree L Roahrig, 25, of Lafayette, IN was charged today with Forgery (C Fel) and two (2) counts of Theft (D Fel) by the Tippecanoe Prosecutor's office.

November 4, 2014: The Exponent

Purdue student accused of strangling ex-girlfriend

A Purdue student is accused of choking his ex-girlfriend in a dorm last weekend.

Paul J. Caletka, a 21-year-old student in the College of Engineering, was arrested on charges of felony battery by means of strangulation and misdemeanor battery resulting in bodily injury. Caletka was jailed Friday morning and has since posted bail.

According to court documents, Caletka, whose girlfriend of about six months recently broke up with him, visited his ex-girlfriend at around 12:30 a.m. on Friday. Caletka asked the night checker at his ex-girlfriend's residence hall to escort him to the alleged victim's room; she agreed.

"I didn't really want to give him an (escort) up there," the night checker said in a written statement to police.

The victim told the night checker the victim had invited Caletka and that he could stay.

However, according to court documents, the victim told Caletka that she did not feel well and that she did not want to speak with him that night. Caletka began to yell at the victim in her room, because he thought she invited him over to work things out.

"At one point, (the victim) was sitting on the futon in the room and Caletka became so upset he grabbed her throat with both hands and began choking her," court records indicate. "She stated that he was squeezing hard enough that he was cutting off her air supply."

The victim asked Caletka to leave, but he did not. Court documents indicate Caletka then straddled the victim and choked her a second time.

"I started hearing loud thumping on the floor, like something heavy dropping on the floor," the night checker's written statement said. "Then I heard him start yelling, 'You stupid bitch,' along with the loud thumping."

The night checker and residential assistant then called the police.

According to court documents, the victim laid down in her bed and asked Caletka again to leave the room. He then tried to get into bed with the victim.

"He lays down, tries to get me to have sex with him. I say no," said the victim in a written statement to police. "He stops on his own after some persistence and gets down from the bed."

Court documents indicate that when police arrived, Caletka answered the door by saying, "Hey, officers. You want me to leave?" The officer then asked Caletka to exit the room so they could speak.

"While speaking with Caletka, (the officer) told him Purdue University Police Department ... was contacted because loud thumping along with a male yelling was heard coming from the room," court documents indicate. "Caletka responded by stating, 'I am going to be honest with you, officer. I should go to jail tonight because I choked her.'"

Caletka then indicated that he would be willing to write a statement describing what happened with the victim. Caletka was transported to the police department where he was later arrested and booked in Tippecanoe County Jail.

November 3, 2014: WLFITV

Man gets 13 years for burglary



TIPPECANOE COUNTY, Ind. (WLFI) – A man gets 13 years in prison for his role in a burglary near West Point, Ind

Prosecutors said Jevon Ollins, 24, broke into a home and stole some jewelry and an iPad in September 2012. They said his wife, Natasha, was in a car outside with Jevon inside when the homeowner arrived and unsuccessfully tried to block Natasha in. When the homeowner went inside, several items were missing and a television was moved to the kitchen.

Prosecutors said the homeowner identified Natasha from a photo array and she acknowledged being at the home with her husband. Jevon's fingerprints were found on the TV.

Jevon pleaded guilty to burglary and was sentenced to 13 years in prison.

November 3, 2014: TCPSN

Jevon D. Ollins, 24, of Lafayette, IN was sentenced to 13 years IDOC for his guilty plea to Burglary (B Fel) today in Tippecanoe County.

November 1, 2014: The Elkhart Truth

Health care worker sentenced to community corrections for bilking severely disabled patient

LAFAYETTE, Ind. (AP) — A home health care worker who was a severely disabled woman's primary caregiver has been sentenced to four years in community corrections for bilking her out of thousands of dollars.

The Journal & Courier reports (<http://on.jconline.com/10ctcHL>) 38-year-old Heather Dispennett had permission to use her client's debit card to obtain prescriptions and home supplies for the 69-year-old woman, who is stricken with a severe physical disability.

Dispennett pleaded guilty to three theft counts for using that card for her own expenses. She was sentenced by a Tippecanoe County judge to four years in community corrections, three years of supervised probation and ordered to pay back more than \$8,000.

Tippecanoe County Prosecutor Pat Harrington says the case illustrates just how vulnerable elderly people are to financial crimes.

Information from: Journal and Courier, <http://www.jconline.com>

October 31, 2014: WLFITV

Chicago man found guilty for beating pregnant woman



TIPPECANOE COUNTY, Ind. (WLFI) — A Chicago man is convicted of beating a pregnant woman and burglarizing her apartment in February.

A jury found Lawrence Anderson guilty of seven felony crimes. He had been accused of pistol whipping a pregnant woman.

The woman's boyfriend had set up a drug deal but wasn't at the apartment when Anderson, two other men and a woman showed up. Anderson is set to be sentenced on Nov. 25.

Three co-defendants are also accused of participating, Cortez Collins and Jaaz Jones have individual trials on Dec. 1 and Dec. 2, respectively. Alexis Daniels, who allegedly sent the text message that set up the drug deal, also has a trial on Dec. 2.

October 31, 2014: Lafayette Journal and Courier

Health care worker siphoned patient's cash



Steven Porter, sporter@jconline.com

Home health care worker Heather Dispennett, 38, had permission to swipe her patient's debit card for prescriptions and home supplies.

She didn't, however, have the go-ahead to spend money on herself, as she did for months on end.

Dispennett pleaded guilty to three felony counts of theft. She was sentenced this week to four years with Tippecanoe County Community Corrections, followed by three years of supervised probation, and she was ordered to pay back more than \$8,000.

Dispennett was the primary caregiver for her victim, a 69-year-old woman with severe physical disability.

Tippecanoe County Prosecutor Pat Harrington said in an email that this case highlights just how vulnerable elderly people are to this sort of crime.

October 30, 2014: WLFITV

Man charged, accused of home improvement fraud

TIPPECANOE COUNTY, Ind. (WLFI) — A Lafayette man faces six felonies after prosecutors say he defrauded several people out of tens of thousands of dollars.

According to court documents, police have received multiple reports of Eric Farrell, 37, overcharging for work since 2011.

One man said in 2010, Farrell kept asking the man's 89-year-old mother who has dementia for thousands of dollars when Farrell was told not to speak to the woman about the job.

Prosecutors said in May of this year, another woman told police she believes Farrell went through her father's desk, discovered he had \$10,000 in his checkbook and then gave the 92-year-old man a bill for that amount.

Another man told police he thinks Farrell saw his wife's obituary and used that information to approach him in his driveway.

October 30, 2014: TCPSN

Lawrence Anderson, 24, of Chicago, IL was found guilty by a Tippecanoe County Jury of Conspiracy to Commit Burglary (B Fel), Burglary (A Fel), Conspiracy to Commit Robbery (B Fel), Robbery (B Fel), Theft (D Fel), Battery (C Fel) and Battery on Pregnant Woman (C Fel) yesterday. The sentence hearing is November 25, 2014 at noon. Sentence range is 20-50 years.

October 30, 2014: TCPSN

Eric Dell Farrell, 37, of Lafayette, IN was charged today with Home Improvement Fraud (C Fel), four (4) counts of Home Improvement Fraud (D Fel), and Theft (D Fel) by the Tippecanoe County Prosecutor's office.

October 29, 2014: TCPSN

Mark D. Speer, 44, of Lafayette, IN was charged today with Attempted Child Molesting (A Fel), Child Molesting (C Fel), and Criminal Confinement (C Fel) by the Tippecanoe County Prosecutor's office.

October 28, 2014: Lafayette Journal and Courier

Woman testifies she was pistol-whipped while pregnant

Steven Porter, sporter@jconline.com

Jessica Wise of Lafayette told jurors Tuesday that she was pistol-whipped in her home when a drug deal turned into an armed burglary.

Wise said she was "almost 13 weeks pregnant" and home alone Feb. 13 watching "Jurassic Park" when 18-year-old Alexis Daniels arrived, supposedly to buy "spice," or synthetic marijuana.

When the front door opened, however, three men accompanying Daniels pushed their way inside, their faces covered.

"One of them pushed me on the couch and started choking me," Wise said, adding that she was punched in the face and dragged through the apartment by her hair.

She said one of the men struck her repeatedly with his handgun, even after she cried out that she was pregnant.

Tippecanoe County Deputy Prosecutor Brian Johnson submitted photos of Wise's injuries as evidence, and Lafayette police Officer Jacob Daubenmier recounted what he saw when he responded to Wise's emergency call that night.

"She was bloody. Her whole face was bloody, and the back of her head," Daubenmier said.

Tuesday marked the start of a jury trial to determine whether the state can prove that 24-year-old Lawrence Anderson did, in fact, participate in the alleged attack.

Defense attorney Jon Phillips said Anderson had been asleep when the alleged incident took place, but Johnson said investigators found Wise's blood on Anderson's clothes.

Anderson has been charged with conspiring to commit burglary while armed with a deadly weapon causing serious bodily injury, an offense punishable by 20 to 50 years behind bars. He also faces six other related felony charges.

He's being tried separately from alleged co-conspirators, 21-year-old Cortez Collins, Jaaz Jones, also 21, and Daniels.

Collins is scheduled for jury trial on five felony charges on Dec. 1.

Jones and Daniels each face five felony charges and are scheduled to appear for trial Dec. 2.

October 28, 2014: Lafayette Journal and Courier

Purdue student's escort robbed about 15 men

Steven Porter, sporter@jconline.com

Police asked 19-year-old Larissa Catron how many men she's robbed after luring them to her Lafayette home with a personals ad on Backpage.com.

"About 15," she replied, according to a probable cause affidavit.

Catron was caught after her latest victim, a Purdue University student, reported her to police, ignoring threats that he'd be accused of soliciting prostitution for giving her \$100 to keep him company.

Charges were filed Friday against Catron and two of her alleged accomplices: 18-year-old Quenton Hansen and 21-year-old Rodney Lloyd, both of Lafayette.

Each faces a misdemeanor and four felonies, including armed robbery, punishable by three to 16 years.

Lafayette police are still working to track down a third male accomplice described by the student, according to Detective Jared Sowders.

A jury trial has been scheduled for Feb. 17.

October 24, 2014: WLFI TV

Shoe print leads police to alleged pill burglar

By Carla Krajcir

TIPPECANOE COUNTY, Ind. (WLFI) — A Lafayette man faces burglary and theft charges after he allegedly stole prescription pills from a home.

Officers said on Oct. 20, 25-year-old Cristian Gomez was at the apartment helping the resident, Toby Jewell, paint the living room where the pills were located. Later that day, it was discovered that the apartment was broken into while the residents were not home.

According to court documents, when police arrived at the home they observed entry had been made through a bedroom window. Police were able to photograph an impression of a shoe tread that was left in the mud below the window.

Jewell told police he suspected Gomez had burglarized his home while he was out.

Police said Gomez had been taken to IU Health Arnett Hospital after returning home on Oct. 20 and being “extremely” high.

When officers arrived at the hospital, they were able to match the tread of Gomez’s shoe with the impression that was left outside Jewell’s bedroom window.

Gomez told police he did not want officers to find the pills. He said he ate four of them so he wouldn’t get charged with a felony.

October 27, 2014: TCPSN

Cristian Omar Gomez AKA Christian Omar Gomez, 25, of Lafayette, IN has been charged with Burglary (Level 4 Fel) and Theft (Level 6 Fel) by the Tippecanoe County Prosecutor’s office

October 25, 2014: TCPSN

Larissa Dakota Catron, 19, Quenton Alexander Hansen, 18, and Rodney Deandre Lloyd, 21, of Lafayette, IN have been charged with the following: Conspiracy to Commit Robbery While Armed with a Deadly Weapon (Level 3 Fel), Robbery Committed While Armed with a Deadly Weapon (Level 3 Fel), Two (2) counts of Conspiracy to Commit Criminal Confinement While Armed with a Deadly Weapon (Level 3 Fel) and Theft (A Misd) by the Tippecanoe County Prosecutor’s office.

October 24, 2014: WLFI TV

Man robbed while answering escort ad

TIPPECANOE COUNTY, Ind. (WLFI) — Three people are charged for allegedly robbing a man who answered an online escort ad.

On Sunday, a man who was listed as a grad student in the Purdue directory contacted a woman on an escort internet ad by the name of Aria. When he arrived at her home on Central Street in Lafayette, she took him to a bedroom where he told her he was lonely.

He paid the woman \$100 for a companionship, and then she told him to leave. When the man questioned why he had to leave, other men came into the room.

One held a gun to the man’s head, while others took the man’s cash and phone, and ransacked his car. They told him not to call police or they would use a recording of the incident to have him arrested for soliciting prostitution. However, he did contact police.

Authorities served a warrant to the property and arrested three individuals — Larrissa Catron, 19, Quenton Hansen, 18, and Rodney Lloyd, 21, — all face several charges including robbery, criminal confinement and theft.

Catron told investigators she had done this to about 15 other men. She also stated the pellet gun used in the incidents was hers.

October 22, 2014: WLFI TV

Lafayette man faces multiple meth-related charges

TIPPECANOE COUNTY, Ind. (WLFI) — A Lafayette man faces several criminal charges after police caught him in the process of making methamphetamine.

According to court documents, Lafayette police were called to an apartment on Eighth Street for a complaint of drug activity. When officers arrived, 32-year-old Joseph Gia and a woman were walking up to the apartment.

The woman admitted she ran into Gia and another man at the grocery store, and she bought pills to manufacture meth for Gia. She said Gia was having a hard time stripping open lithium batteries in the process, so they left to get pliers and when they came back the police were waiting for them.

Gia has been charged with attempted dealing in methamphetamine, possession of a synthetic drug, having an illegal drug lab and being a habitual offender.

October 22, 2014: TCPSN

Joseph Dominic Gia, 32, of Lafayette, IN was charged today with Attempted Dealing in Methamphetamine (Level 5 Fel), two (2) counts of Possession of a Synthetic Drug or Synthetic Drug Lookalike Substance (A Misd), Illegal Drug Lab (Level 6 Fel), and Habitual Offender by the Tippecanoe County Prosecutor's office.

October 17, 2014: WLFI TV

Man sentenced to 80 years for fire that killed girl, 6



TIPPECANOE COUNTY, Ind. (WLFI) — A Lafayette man who killed a 6-year-old girl in a fire last November gets an 80-year prison sentence.

As News 18 has already reported, Ryan Moynagh had already agreed to serve 65 years in prison on a murder charge as part of a plea deal.

A judge sentenced Moynagh Friday to an additional 15 years for the arson that killed Katelyn Lane. Moynagh faced between 6 and 15 years in prison for the arson charge, with the deal leaving it up to the judge.

Friday's sentencing for arson runs consecutive to the murder sentence which was also handed down Friday.

October 17, 2014: WLFI TV

Man convicted of rape receives prison time



TIPPECANOE COUNTY, Ind. (WLFI) — A Lafayette man convicted of rape in August will spend 17 years behind bars.

As News 18 reported at the time, a jury found 29-year-old Kastin Slaybaugh guilty of rape in August. Slaybaugh sexually assaulted a woman he was with on Jan. 16 in Lafayette.

When police arrived, they found an unresponsive woman in a bedroom with three other women. One of the women told police she believed Slaybaugh engaged in sexual activity with the woman while she was unconscious.

A mistrial was filed last month after Slaybaugh's family claimed one of the jurors knew the victim and knew details about the case before the trial. However, the request was denied and Slaybaugh was sentenced Friday.

Slaybaugh was sentenced to 15 years to the Department of Corrections for rape and sentenced to an additional two years for violating his probation.

October 17, 2014: WLFI TV

Waveland woman sentenced for dealing heroin



By Dan Klein

TIPPECANOE CO., Ind. (WLFI) — Carla Day, 32, of Waveland, was sentenced on Friday to 16 years in prison for dealing heroin.

Tippecanoe County prosecutors say when Day was pulled over on a traffic stop on Nov. 14, 2013, officers found a 21-gram rock of heroin on her person.

Day admitted to officers she had driven to Chicago that day to buy the drug to sell in the area.

She pleaded guilty in July. In exchange, prosecutors agreed to drop charges of conspiracy to deal heroin, heroin possession, and driving with a suspended license.

October 17, 2014: WLFI TV

Lafayette woman faces welfare fraud

TIPPECANOE COUNTY, Ind. (WLFI) — A Lafayette woman faces welfare fraud and theft charges.

According to court documents, 32-year-old Jamah Cunningham received over \$7,000 in benefits for which she was not entitled.

When Cunningham filed her paper work, she allegedly stated that the father of her children was not living at her home. An investigation revealed that the father of Cunningham's children, Jarvis Perry, did live in the home. The investigation also revealed the children were covered by their father's health insurance.

October 17, 2014: Lafayette Journal and Courier

Convicted murderer-by-arson handed 80-year sentence

Steven Porter, sporter@jconline.com

Ryan Moynagh, 34, was sentenced Friday to 80 years in prison for setting a house fire that killed 6-year-old Katelyn Sue Lane in November.

Had he gone to trial, Moynagh could have been sentenced to life without the possibility of parole, but he agreed last month to plead guilty in exchange for the lighter penalty.

The plea deal called for a 65-year executed sentence on Moynagh's murder conviction, plus six to 15 years for arson.

Tippecanoe Superior Court 1 Judge Randy Williams went for the maximum sentence within the plea deal's parameters.

Katelyn's mother, Mindy Kirby, offered an emotional testimony during the hearing, recounting the damage Moynagh's actions inflicted on her family.

"Not a day goes by where I feel normal," she said, placing a school photo of Katelyn on the stand as she spoke.

"He chose to burn my child alive in that room," she added.

Moynagh lived at the rental home at 2726 Schuyler Ave. in Lafayette with his boyfriend, 53-year-old David Trueblood, according to Tippecanoe County Prosecutor Pat Harrington.

Trueblood was reportedly taking a bath when Moynagh set the fire in at least three places, including the bed on which Katelyn slept, Harrington said.

Trueblood tried to save Katelyn but failed. He was found unconscious in the living room with a fire extinguisher nearby. Although he survived the blaze physically, the emotional impact of his failure to save the girl ultimately killed him, according to Kirby.

Her daughter's baby sitter killed himself in February, she said, the day before Katelyn's seventh birthday.

Trueblood “died a real hero,” she said, but Moynagh wasn’t so convinced.

“David did a lot of things, but a hero he is not,” Moynagh said.

The confessed arsonist and murderer said he wanted to take revenge on Trueblood and didn’t know Katelyn was in the bedroom where he started the fire.

Moynagh had overheard a conversation in which Trueblood said he planned to kick him out of the house the next day, Harrington said.

Defense attorney Kevin O’Reilly argued that Moynagh had attempted only to cause property damage. Katelyn was “an unintended victim,” he said.

O’Reilly recommended a 71-year executed sentence, but Williams took Tippecanoe County Pat Harrington’s recommendation for the max instead.

Before pronouncing the sentence, Williams addressed Kirby.

“I know not of your faith,” he said. “I believe there is a Heaven — can’t tell you why I believe this — but I believe there is, and that’s where your little girl is right now.”

October 16, 2014: WLFI TV

Lafayette man sentenced to more than 3 decades



TIPPECANOE COUNTY, Ind. (WLFI) — A Lafayette man is sentenced to three and a half decades in prison for dealing drugs to an undercover detective on several occasions.

Luis Torres-Reynoso, 32, pleaded guilty in August to 13 drug-related charges, including dealing in marijuana and cocaine.

According to prosecutors, he sold drugs to an undercover detective at least seven times from May to November of 2013. The entire amount of drugs recovered by police had a street value of \$40,000 to \$50,000.

Torres-Reynoso was sentenced to 35 years in the Department of Corrections.

October 16, 2014: WLFI TV

Man charged in stabbing at Lafayette Apt. complex

TIPPECANOE COUNTY, Ind. (WLFI) — A man has been charged in connection to a stabbing at a Lafayette apartment complex.

Brian Chapple, 28, faces four felony charges after prosecutors say he stabbed a man in a fight early Friday morning.

According to court documents, Chapple was locked out of an apartment at the Country Charm complex because the tenant says he was drunk and getting too loud. Prosecutors say he kicked the door in, got into a fight, and stabbed a man puncturing one of his lungs.

Chapple faces four felony counts including battery with a deadly weapon.

October 16, 2014: WLFI TV

Man faces charges after breaking car window; injuring his son

TIPPECANOE COUNTY, Ind. (WLFI) — A Lafayette man faces multiple counts including neglect of a dependent and battery on a child.

Clayton Jean, 21, of Lafayette, faces multiple felony counts after police say he shattered a car window with his baby in the back seat.

Police were called to a home on Friday because Jean got into an argument with the child's mother Paige Brinson. Jean said he was supposed to have the 11-month-old child all weekend and got angry when Brinson picked up the child early.

According to court documents, as Brinson was driving away Jean began to hit her car with his hands shattering the passenger side window.

Brinson stopped at a safe distance and checked on the child. Officers said the baby was bleeding from small cuts on his face and there was broken glass all over his body and car seat.

Jean faces felony charges of neglect of a dependent and battery on a child.

October 16, 2014: TCPSN

Jerry Lee Williams, 35, of Danville, IL was sentenced to 25 years today for his guilty plea to Conspiracy to Commit Dealing in Cocaine (A Fel), and five (5) counts of Dealing in Cocaine (A Fel) in Tippecanoe County, IN. Sentence breakdown: 20 years IDOC; 5 years Probation

October 16, 2014: TCPSN

Brian Kenneth Chapple, 28, of Lafayette, IN was charged today with Battery Committed by Means of a Deadly Weapon (Level 5 Fel), Battery Resulting in Serious Bodily Injury (Level 5 Fel), Criminal Recklessness Committed While Armed with a Deadly Weapon (Level 6 Fel), Residential Entry (Level 6 Fel), Resisting Law Enforcement (A Misd), and Criminal Trespass (A Misd) by the Tippecanoe County Prosecutor's office.

October 16, 2014: TCPSN

Clayton L Jean, 21, of Lafayette, IN was charged today with Neglect of a Dependent Resulting in Bodily Injury (Level 5 Fel), Battery on a Child Resulting in Bodily Injury (Level 5 Fel), and Criminal Recklessness (B Misd) by the Tippecanoe County Prosecutor's office.

October 16, 2014: TCPSN

Saul Munoz Torres, 32, of Mexico, was sentenced to 35 years (IDOC) for his guilty pleas to the following charges in Tippecanoe County, IN: Conspiracy to Commit Dealing in Cocaine (A Fel), Dealing in Cocaine (A Fel), Conspiracy to Deal Marijuana (D fel), Dealing in Marijuana (D Fel), Dealing in Cocaine (A Fel), Possession of Cocaine (C Fel), Dealing in Marijuana (D Fel), Dealing in Cocaine (A Fel), Dealing in Marijuana (A Misd), Dealing in Cocaine (A Fel), Dealing Cocaine (A Fel), Dealing in Cocaine (A Fel), and Maintaining Common Nuisance (D Fel).

October 14, 2014: WLFI TV

Trial date set for woman accused of not reporting husband's death

By Kyle Boyd

TIPPECANOE COUNTY, Ind. (WLFI) — The woman accused of not reporting the death of her husband and collecting his benefits is set to go to court.

Ila Solomon's jury trial date has been set for Jan. 27, 2015. As News 18 reported, Solomon was charged last week after allegedly keeping the body of her husband, Gerald "Scooter" Gavan, in their house for nine months after his death and collecting his benefits from Veterans Affairs and Social Security.

Solomon faces nine charges in total, including failure to report a dead body, unlawful disposition of a dead human body, failure to file a certificate of death, welfare fraud and theft.

October 10, 2014: Lafayette Journal and Courier

Woman charged for failure to report husband's dead body

Mikel Livingston, mlivingston@jconline.com

Ila Solomon, whose husband lay dead in a house for nine months before he was discovered, was charged Thursday with nine counts in connection with the suspicious death.

The charges are three counts of welfare fraud, Class C felonies; three counts of theft, Class D felonies; failure to report a dead body, a Class A misdemeanor; unlawful disposition of a dead human body, a Class B misdemeanor; and failure to file a certificate of death, a Class B misdemeanor.

In 2012, Solomon married Gerald "Scooter" Gavan Jr., an elderly veteran.

His body was discovered in May. Officials say Gavan had been dead for more than nine months in his home on the 800 block of Shawnee Avenue.

Solomon claimed Gavan had died just five days before he was discovered, but forensic tests indicated the death occurred no later than July 15, 2013.

Solomon, 55, was arrested Thursday evening and taken to the Tippecanoe County Jail.

In June, Solomon told the Journal & Courier that she delayed informing the police because Gavan had made a request that she allow his body to be eaten by birds through a practice Tibetan Buddhists call a "sky burial."

According to the affidavit of probable cause, a pair of Lafayette police officers responded to Gavan's home on May 3 after the son of Gavan's friend expressed concern about Gavan's well-being.

The officers interviewed Solomon at the scene. Solomon told them that Gavan was traveling with her family and that she was his caretaker. She then said he lived in an assisted living facility, "which only increased the officers' suspicions and the need to check on Gavan's well-being," according to the affidavit.

After entering the home, officers found a tarp covered by bedcovers and a powdery substance that appeared to be lime. Underneath it was Gavan's body, in an advanced stage of decay.

The cause and manner of death was unable to be determined.

After Gavan's death, Solomon continued accepting Gavan's federal benefits, including Social Security benefits and his military pension.

Solomon subsequently returned \$20,000 in federal benefits.

October 10, 2014: TCPSN

A Tippecanoe County jury found Eric Dean Lacy, 40, of Lafayette, IN guilty of Auto Theft (D Fel), Illegal Drug Lab (C Fel), Possession of a Syringe (D Fel), Possession of Paraphernalia (A Misd), Conspiracy to Commit Burglary (B Fel), Conspiracy to Commit Theft (D Fel), Burglary (C Fel) and two (2) counts of Theft (D Fel) yesterday. The Defendant waived his right to a jury trial on the habitual phase and faces up to 61 years if the habitual offender is applied.

October 10, 2014: TCPSN

Ila M. Solomon, 55, of Lafayette, IN has been charged with three (3) counts of Welfare Fraud (C Fel), three (3) counts Theft (D Fel), Failure to Report a Dead Body (A Misd), Unlawful Disposition of a Dead Human Body (B Misd), and Failure to File Certificate of Death (B Misd) by the Tippecanoe County Prosecutor's office.

October 9, 2014: WLFI TV

Investigators: Lafayette man stabbed another after 'heated words'

By Kyle Boyd

LAFAYETTE, Ind. (WLFI) – A Lafayette man faces three felony charges after allegedly stabbing a man and then fleeing.

Sicari Strickland, 27, faces two charges of battery with a deadly weapon. Both charges are level 5 felonies. He faces an additional level 6 felony after allegedly entering an apartment in an attempt to see his ex-wife.

On the evening of Oct. 5, investigators say Strickland placed harassing phone calls to his ex-wife. Court documents say that she took her children to another woman's apartment and that Strickland arrived there and entered the apartment uninvited.

Investigators say that Strickland and his ex-wife then stepped outside and a man, identified as Steven Darnell Collins, told Strickland to leave. Investigators say that Strickland stabbed Collins after exchanging "heated words."

Collins was taken to the hospital and underwent emergency surgery for a punctured colon. His relationship to Strickland and his ex-wife was not made clear in court documents.

Online court records do not reveal any future court dates in this case.

October 9, 2014: TCPSN

Sicari Samson Strickland, 27, of Lafayette, IN has been charged with Battery Committed By Means Of A Deadly Weapon (Level 5 Fel), Battery Resulting in Serious Bodily Injury (Level 5 Fel), and Residential Entry (Level 6 Fel) by the Tippecanoe County Prosecutor's office.

October 8, 2014: WLFI TV

Teen sentenced for dealing LSD, Xanax to undercover cop

By Kyle Boyd

TIPPECANOE COUNTY, Ind. (WLFI) — A Battle Ground teen is sentenced to 10 years for dealing drugs.

Dillon Bjornsen, 16, sold acid and Xanax to an undercover police officer on three different occasions.

Bjornsen was sentenced to three years in prison, three years in community corrections, and four years of probation.

Aggravators in the case include a history of substance abuse, unsuccessful attempts at rehabilitation, and being expelled from school due to behavior issues.

October 8, 2014: WLFI TV

Lafayette man charged after allegedly confessing to child molestation

By Kyle Boyd

LAFAYETTE, Ind. (WLFI) – A Lafayette man has been charged after allegedly confessing to child molestation.

Marco Rincon, 48, faces eight felony counts of child molestation in Tippecanoe County. Due to changes in Indiana law and dates the crimes were allegedly committed, four counts are classified as level one felonies and four are class A felonies.

According to court documents, Rincon confessed to the allegations in early October, stating that they were separate incidents that occurred from late 2013 to early 2014.

October 8, 2014: TCPSN

Marco A. Rincon, 48, of Lafayette, IN was charged today with four (4) counts of Child Molesting (Level 1 Fel), and four (4) counts of Child Molesting (A Fel) by the Tippecanoe County Prosecutor's office.

October 8, 2014: TCPSN

Dillon Anton Bjornsen, 16, of Battleground, IN was sentenced today to 10 years for his guilty pleas to two (2) counts of Dealing in a Schedule I Controlled Substance (B Fel). Breakdown of sentence: IDOC 3 years, TCCC 3 years, Probation 4 years

October 7, 2014: WLFITV

Man charged in Lafayette home break-in

TIPPECANOE COUNTY, Ind. (WLFI) — A Lafayette man has been charged in connection to a home break-in.

According to prosecutors, Brandon Woodcock, 23, has been charged with burglary, theft and residential entry.

Police were called to a home in Lafayette after a neighbor notified dispatch of a suspicious male checking the home's doors and windows, and eventually entering the residence.

The neighbor said she witnessed Woodcock get out of a green car. According to court documents, police were able to identify Woodcock by running a Bureau of Motor Vehicles check on the green car.

Police notified the owner of the home who stated he did know Woodcock, but no one should be at the house.

Police used a K-9 officer at perimeter around the home. Police located Woodcock as he was trying to flee the scene.

After surveying the home, the owner was able to identify that a few things were allegedly missing. After further investigation, police found the missing items in the home's detached garage.

October 7, 2014: TCPSN

Brandon Edward Belt, 36, of Lafayette, IN was charged today with Intimidation-Drawing or Using a Deadly Weapon (Level 5 Fel), Pointing a Firearm (Level 6 Fel), and Criminal Recklessness Committed While Armed with a Deadly Weapon (Level 6 Fel) by the Tippecanoe County Prosecutor's office.

October 7, 2014: TCPSN

Brandon Keith Woodcock, 23, of Lafayette, IN has been charged with Burglary (Level 4 Fel), Burglary (Level 5 Fel), Residential Entry (Level 6 Fel), and Theft (A Misd) by the Tippecanoe County Prosecutor's office.

October 2, 2014: WLFITV

Prosecutor: Man sold meth to informant five times

By Kyle Bloyd

TIPPECANOE COUNTY, Ind. (WLFI) — A Buck Creek man has been charged after allegedly selling meth to a confidential informant on five occasions.

Joshua Lank, 36, faces five felony counts of dealing in methamphetamine. Due to changes in Indiana law, four counts are class B felonies and one is a level four felony.

According to court documents, Lank sold meth to a confidential informant five times between March and July of 2014. Documents state that the informant was wearing a wire and purchased the drugs when visiting Lank at his residence.

According to online court records, a trial date has not yet been set.

October 2, 2014: TCPSN

Joshua Eugene Lank, 36, of Buck Creek, IN has been charged with four (4) counts of Dealing in Methamphetamine (B Fel), and Dealing in Methamphetamine (Level 4 Fel) by the Tippecanoe County Prosecutor's office

September 29, 2014: Journal and Courier Editorial

Purdue murder and stiffer sentences

Tippecanoe County Prosecutor Pat Harrington got everything the law allowed in the sentencing of Cody Cousins, a former Purdue University student who murdered fellow senior Andrew Boldt in an Electrical Engineering Building classroom in January.

Cousins received the maximum 65 years in prison after telling Superior Court 2 Judge Thomas Busch and the rest of the court that he killed Boldt because he wanted to — and he did what he wanted to.

But the testimony on Sept. 19 in Busch's courtroom was enough to back Harrington's post-hearing lament, when he wondered aloud why Indiana law allowed someone as calculating and callous as Cousins to serve anything less than life in prison.

"He killed a human being and victimized innocent people in a classroom," Harrington said after the sentencing, calling for a tougher code that would allow at least for life without parole.

State Sen. Brandt Hershman, R-Buck Creek, said he would be willing to work on a bill that would consider killings done on school campuses to be added to the list of aggravators that put stiffer sentences on the table.

That was one of the questions in the aftermath, as Purdue scrambled to assess warning systems, door locks and more: What if it had happened two blocks away? What if this hadn't happened on campus? Would it have reverberated the way it did?

But this was the situation: It did, in fact, happen on campus. And it did, in fact, reverberate in ways other crimes don't always do. Fair or unfair, that's just the way it is.

Maybe it was the stunning admissions in court. Maybe it was the trauma still felt by classmates in that basement lab that day. Maybe it was the pleading from Boldt's mother for an explanation of why from Cousins. Or maybe it was the still-fresh memory of a day that shut down campus to all but vigils and silence.

But the thought of Cousins — the one who showed no remorse during his sentencing — getting back on the streets in his mid-50s, provided he earns the good behavior that effectively cuts his sentence in half, is a frightening thought.

Harrington's seething assessment will make for a compelling argument at the Statehouse.

September 26, 2014: TCPSN

Sherita Reece, of Chicago, IL, was sentenced today to 8 years IDOC for her guilty plea to Forgery (C Fel).

September 26, 2014: TCPSN

Evan Paul Horrall, 18, and Taylor McKenzie Schrontz, 19, of Lafayette, IN were charged today with Conspiracy to Commit Burglary (Level 5 Fel), two (2) counts of Burglary (Level 5 Fel), two (2) counts of Theft (A Misd) by the Tippecanoe County Prosecutor's office.

September 26, 2014: TCPSN

Christopher Ryan Frank, 26, of Lafayette, IN was charged today with Burglary (Level 4 Fel), Residential Entry (Level 6 Fel), and Theft (Class A Misd) by the Tippecanoe County Prosecutor's office.

September 25, 2014: Lafayette Journal and Courier

Check fraud ring leads to 7 arrests

Steven Porter, sporter@jconline.com

Seven men picked up in the past two weeks by Lafayette police are sitting in Tippecanoe County Jail for allegedly participating in a check fraud ring.

Two of the suspects recruited homeless men from Indianapolis to cash fraudulent checks at local banks, according to a probable cause affidavit.

Officers arrested Michael Craven, 32, and Timothy Holt, 58, on Sept. 11 after they tried but failed to cash fraudulent checks at the Salin Bank on Creasy Lane.

Holt told police he'd been walking from a food pantry to a homeless shelter in Indianapolis when two men pulled up in a car to offer him a job. They drove Craven and him to Lafayette, bought them food and gave them forged checks to cash.

On Sept. 15, officers arrested David Amos, 41, another homeless man from Indianapolis, at the Security Federal Savings Bank on Earl Avenue in Lafayette.

Amos told police two men drove him to Lafayette, bought him food and clothes, then dispatched him to cash fraudulent checks in his name.

The affidavit states the men successfully cashed multiple checks that day before getting caught.

Jerimiah Struchen, 25, was arrested Sept. 18 at Fifth Third Bank in the Lafayette Target plaza after attempting to cash a check there.

The next day, Donald Jackson Jr., 46, successfully cashed a check at Lafayette Savings Bank Bank on Greenbush Street, but an officer confronted him as he waited for his ride to return. His co-conspirators left him behind.

Police then stopped a dark gray GMC Acadia SUV in Boone County, arresting Shuntae Gaither and Deontrae Goolsby, both 25.

Goolsby reportedly fled the scene, throwing a bank envelope with a large amount of money, the affidavit states.

Two other men in the car — Mark Pryor and Theodore Mitchell — were not arrested. They, too, told officers they'd been recruited to participate in the fraudulent check-cashing ring.

A total of 30 felony charges were filed against the seven men as of Wednesday evening. The most serious charge, a Level 5 felony, carries a possible penalty of one to six years.

September 25, 2014: Lafayette Journal and Courier

Ex-Purdue IT worker faces child porn charges

Steven Porter, sporter@jconline.com

A former Purdue University worker was arrested Tuesday on child porn charges, police said.

Daniel P. Shaw, 47, of West Lafayette, is accused of possessing and sharing the photos and videos last year while employed by the university's IT department as an applications administrator.

Shaw left that position in September 2013, according to university spokeswoman Liz Evans, who declined to comment on the reasons for Shaw's departure, citing personnel privacy issues.

Court documents show that the files in Shaw's possession depicted children in suggestive poses, some of them subjected to sadomasochistic abuse.

When police searched Shaw's home more than a year ago, he admitted that he had intentionally downloaded the material, but he "denied knowing that he had his file sharing settings on, and denied that he had made said child pornography available for download by other users," according to court affidavit.

The document also notes that Shaw had "exceptional computer skills and computer knowledge."

He faces two felony counts of possessing child pornography and one felony count of child exploitation.

Shaw was booked into the Tippecanoe County jail shortly after 9 a.m. Tuesday. He was released about eight hours later on \$500 cash bond plus \$5,000 surety.

He made an initial court appearance while in custody, represented by his attorney, Gregg Theobald.

A jury trial is scheduled for Jan. 6.

September 24, 2014: TCPSN

Jerimiah Joseph Struchen, 25, of Indianapolis, IN was charged today with Fraud on a Financial Institution (Level 5 Fel), Forgery (Level 6 Fel), and Attempted Theft (Level 6 Fel) by the Tippecanoe County Prosecutor's office.

September 24, 2014: TCPSN

Deontrae Joshua Goolsby, 25, of Atlanta, GA, Donald Jackson, Jr, 36, of Indianapolis, IN and Shuntae Gaither, 25, of Decatur, GA were charged today with two (2) counts of Conspiracy of Fraud on a Financial Institution (Level 5 Fel), Conspiracy to Commit Forgery (Level 6 Fel), Conspiracy to Commit Theft (Level 5 Fel), Forgery (Level 5 Fel), and Theft (Level 6 Fel) by the Tippecanoe County Prosecutor's office. All are being held on \$250,000 bond at the Tippecanoe County Jail.

September 23, 2014: Fox 59

Purdue University shooter's sentence sparks push to change state law

BY KENDALL DOWNING

LAFAYETTE, Ind. — It's a shocking crime that rocked Purdue University. Now the murder of teaching assistant Andrew Boldt inside a campus classroom could spark a change in state law.

Friday a judge gave the gunman, Cody Cousins, the maximum sentence, 65 years in prison.

Both the prosecutor and one state lawmaker now believe that's not enough.

Many have asked why prosecutors did not seek the death penalty in the case. The answer is simple. State statute would not allow them to do so.

There's a list of 16 aggravating circumstances that make a killing eligible for capital punishment. A school shooting is not on the list.

"It's not recognized in our state law if a person goes into a school of any sorts," said Pat Harrington, Tippecanoe County Prosecutor, at the sentencing of Cody Cousins on Friday.

Still Tuesday, Harrington called the case eye-opening. He said the toughest sentence he could ask for wasn't tough enough.

"The hardest thing I had explaining to this family was how in Indiana, we don't recognize this type of violent crime as an aggravator," he said.

But it could all change at the hands of state lawmakers.

"I think they're asking a reasonable question, whether the penalty received was sufficient for an act like this," said State Senator Brandt Hershman, who represents District 7.

Hershman said the Cody Cousins case is one lawmakers should study. He's starting the conversation now between prosecutors, police, and attorneys. Hershman said a crime targeted at a classroom is especially heinous.

"I think it's worthy of examination of whether this should have fallen under a death penalty offense or life without parole or whether there should have been an additional enhancement made to prosecutors," said Hershman.

With good behavior, Cody Cousins could walk free by age 52. For Prosecutor Pat Harrington, that's a call to action.

"He killed a human being, and he victimized people in a classroom. It should be a higher range of sentence, 75 to 100 years. It should be an aggravator that we consider for life without parole or the death penalty," Harrington said Friday.

Senator Hershman told FOX 59 on Tuesday the talks are just starting. Hershman said he does hope to have a bill filed to address the issue by the start of the legislative session in January.

September 23, 2014: WLFITV

Drug dealer gets 15 years in prison



By Dan Klein

LAFAYETTE, Ind. (WLF) – A Lafayette man who sold drugs to undercover officers on three occasions was sentenced to 15 years in prison.

Corey Smith, 35, pleaded guilty in July to two counts of dealing drugs and one count of theft.

Prosecutors said Smith sold to officers three times between late November and mid-December 2013.

He was sentenced to 15 years in prison and five years of supervised probation.

September 23, 2014: WLFITV

Prosecutors: Cousins was envious

By Brittany Tyner

LAFAYETTE, Ind. (WLF) – Cody Cousins, 24, got the maximum sentence Friday that he was facing — 65 years in prison.

In court Cousins said, “I killed Andrew Boldt because I wanted to.” He then went on to say, “I do what I want and deal with the consequences later.”

For almost eight months, Purdue’s campus and the entire community has wondered why. Why would Cousins go to the basement of the Electrical Engineering Building to kill another teaching assistant, Andrew Boldt?

Tippecanoe County Prosecutor Pat Harrington tells News 18 the reason was envy.

“In this case, he was just truly envious,” said Harrington. “Andrew Boldt, as Professor Meyer testified, was well-liked. He was the most popular TA, teaching assistant, at Purdue University. He was everything that the defendant wasn’t.”

The defense was looking for a sentence of guilty but mentally ill. But mental health experts testified Friday that while Cousins had a history of amphetamine abuse and mental illness — including schizophrenia, and both bipolar and anxiety disorders — he didn’t show symptoms on the day of the fatal shooting. Still, while a student, Cousins sought counseling services at Purdue 17 times.

Friday’s sentencing also revealed more details about the events surrounding Jan. 21.

Cousins legally bought a gun one week earlier on Jan. 14. Detectives testified he went to the practice range twice, on Jan. 17 and 18. A detective also told the court Cousins bought MDMA, or molly/ecstasy, from a dealer in the fall of 2013. The dealer stopped selling to him after a confrontation where Cousins got aggressive and knocked items off a dresser.

Dr. Elmo Griggs, the doctor who performed the autopsy, said Boldt was shot five times, two times in the back and three times in the face and head. He was stabbed or cut 19 times and the knife was left in his eye socket. Still, without a fatal stab to the neck, he testified Boldt might have survived with prompt medical care. Yet, with almost 10,000 autopsies performed, he said it was the worst homicide he’s ever seen.

“There are truly a few people out there who are evil and who will do atrocious acts against unsuspecting individuals,” said Harrington.

As to a motive, Purdue Engineering Professor David Meyer testified about an incident from the spring of 2013. Meyer said Cousins was struggling to get something to work, Boldt offered assistance and that offended Cousins. Meyer believes that’s when the hatred began.

Next, Boldt's parents James and Mary took the stand. James gave an emotional testimony, sniffing and wiping away tears. With a picture of Andrew in front of her, Mary directed her testimony towards Cousins. She wanted to know what her son did to make him so mad. Both asked for the maximum sentence of 65 years.

Cousins' mother Wendy Melancon, also a psychologist, was the only person to testify on behalf of Cousins. She said in the summer of 2013, he was acting strange and wrecked his car. That's when he was admitted to a mental health facility in Warsaw. She testified her son didn't think he was ill.

When Cousins finally spoke, he told the court he had lied to the mental health experts.

"Thirty-one years of doing this and multiple murder cases, reading the law for 31 years, reading case law from other states, you all were present and heard a person stand up in court and say words that should chill, not only you to the bone, but society," said Harrington.

Judge Thomas Busch sentenced Cousins to the maximum 65 years in prison. He said it was clear Cousins didn't want treatment. He also referred to the crime as an act of hatred and terror.

Professor Meyer as well as several students talked about how the incident still haunts them to this very day. One student was forced to drop out because of they saw.

September 23, 2014: TCPSN

Corey Eldon Smith, 35, of Lafayette, IN was sentenced to 20 today for his guilty pleas to Dealing in a Narcotic Drug (B Fel), Dealing in Cocaine (B Fel), and Theft (D Fel). Sentence breakdown: IDOC 15 years; Supervised Probation 5 years; DOC Programs: CLIFF Program; Terms of Probation: Waive 4th Amendment Rights; submit to random drug screens; substance abuse evaluation/treatment as recommended by the Probation Dept.; Character Restoration Program.

September 23, 2014: WLFITV

Man sentenced after pleading guilty to possession, battery



TIPPECANOE COUNTY, Ind. (WLFI) – A Lafayette man is sentenced to seven years in prison after pleading guilty to possession of a narcotic drug and battery.

Prosecutors said Tramell White, 25, battered a woman in April.

He was featured on News 18's Fugitive Search the next week and arrested after a traffic stop several days later.

Investigators found synthetic marijuana in the car and heroin hidden on White.

September 23, 2014: TCPSN

Alvaro N. Cortez AKA Alvaro Cortes AKA Israel Angel Rios AKA Israel Hernandez, 26, of Lafayette, IN has been charged with Dealing in Cocaine (A Fel), Possession of Cocaine (C fel), Theft (D Fel), and Habitual Offender by the Tippecanoe County Prosecutor's office.

September 23, 2014: Lafayette Journal and Courier

Owner of emaciated, dead horses charged

Mikel Livingston, mlivingston@jconline.com

A Lafayette man has been charged with two counts of animal cruelty after a dead horse and its emaciated companion were found at his home earlier this year.

On April 7, Tippecanoe County animal control officer April Keck responded to a citizen complaint to find the horses — which had begun eating tree bark in a failed bid to find nourishment — in the backyard of James Fitzsimons.

Five months later, Fitzsimons has been charged with two counts, both Class A misdemeanors punishable by imprisonment of not more than one year and a fine of not more than \$5,000.

The charges, filed late last week in Superior Court 5, allege Fitzsimons did "recklessly, knowingly or intentionally abandon or neglect a vertebrate animal in his custody."

Because the incident occurred prior to July 1, the charges are filed under Indiana's previous criminal code.

A message left for Fitzsimons Monday has not yet been returned.

According to Keck's police report, Fitzsimons "stated the reason the horses were thin is that he had a very hard time finding hay to feed them over the long, harsh winter."

The charges come as relief to Jamie Showers, facility manager at Indiana Horse Rescue Central. It's Showers who cared for the horse until August when the horse was adopted.

Showers said Little Bit was the worse case she'd seen.

"That she was still standing that skinny, she most certainly wasn't far behind her partner" in death, Showers said. "Little Bit had the advantage of age on her side. If she was 15 years older she may not have been as successful in recovery as she was."

Last month the horse was adopted by a new Indiana-based owner, Showers said. Privacy reasons prevent Showers from identifying the horse's new owners.

"Her job is going to consist of giving rides to children for two hours a week, so it's a very laid back and no pressure schedule for her," Showers said. "She's just doing wonderfully. Her new adopters just adore her."

That's a stark contrast to months ago when Little Bit came to Showers weighing a scant 784 pounds with her bones protruding. Showers placed the horse's ideal weight around 1,100 pounds.

At that time, the six-year-old quarterhorse ranked a 1 or "poor" on the Henneke horse body scaling system, the lowest rating on the system used to gauge a horse's physical health.

Showers said the punishment for animal cruelty remains too lax, equating it with a "slap on the wrist."

Under the former criminal code, Fitzsimons' charges could have been bumped up to Class D felonies — with a possible sentence of imprisonment between six months and three years and a fine less than \$10,000 — if he had a prior unrelated conviction under that chapter of Indiana Code.

Fitzsimons has no such prior conviction.

The new criminal code that came into effect July 1 brought little change to the animal cruelty statute: The charge is still a Class A misdemeanor, able to be amplified to a Level 6 felony, with the same sentencing possibilities as a Class D felony, if the person has a prior, unrelated conviction.

"That's kind of laughable," Showers said. "When it comes to people who are being found with dead animals on the premises and no charges being filed or people dragging their feet to file charges, people are getting the impression they can get away with it."

An initial hearing in this case has been scheduled for Monday.

September 22, 2014: The Exponent

Cody Cousins admits, 'I killed Andrew Boldt because I wanted to.'

By HALEY CHECKLEY Special Projects Editor

Mary Boldt walked determinedly to the stand, a stack of papers and a framed photo of her son in her hand and calmly poured herself a cup of water before sitting in front of her son's murderer.

Around 50 people came to the final sentencing of Cody Cousins on Friday, all wanting to know the same thing: Why did Cousins, an intelligent young man, take the life of former Purdue University student Andrew Boldt, a virtuous peer, in January?

Mary breathed through her shakiness, her fury noticeably brewing just beneath the surface. Her letter began, "Mr. Cousins, did you even know my son Andrew?" She looked up from the paper and met the cold gaze of Cousins, a connection that was punctuated by an uncomfortable silence until he finally returned his glance to the front of the courtroom.

Mary continued asking Cousins questions, "What did he do to make you so mad?" "Were you stalking him?" "Who did you go to for support?"

Cousins returned his gaze to her face and clenched his jaw; a nerve had obviously been hit with the last inquiry.

Cousins had many opportunities to reach out for help. He even visited Purdue's Counseling and Psychological Services department 17 times in the six months preceding the shooting. Unfortunately, their diagnosis of narcissistic personality disorder did little to help Cousins who, in the summer of 2013, began having manic thoughts that started to concern his mother who had him involuntary hospitalized near his hometown of Warsaw, Ind.

Cousins' mother, Wendy Melancon, is a mental health professional, but her attempts to help her son were unwelcomed and rejected in most instances. When given medication for mood disorders, Cousins would begin taking it and his "bizarre thoughts" would ebb, only to stop the medication because he didn't believe he was sick, according to Melancon.

Vernon Little and Steven Berger, court-appointed mental health specialists, analyzed and diagnosed Cousins with symptoms of schizophrenia and bipolar disorder, respectively, as an attempt to understanding Cousins' state of mind during the time of the crime. Berger was of the opinion Cousins was mentally ill, but it did not play a role in the

shooting of Andrew. Little, however, argued his mental illness had been present for some time leading up to the murder and it would be unlikely the events were not linked to his mental state.

Many in the courtroom agreed: the defendant was exceptionally intelligent. Cousins, though having been dropped from Purdue in the fall of 2011, was readmitted in 2012 where he made the dean's list three out of six semesters while studying electrical engineering. His intelligence, unfortunately, was all-too apparent in the steps taken to murder Andrew.

Mary's jaw clenched and her hands shook as she said, "I am keenly aware that that first gunshot did not kill my son. Mr. Cousins, you intended to make my son suffer before he died. How dare you? How dare you?"

The courtroom was completely silent for agonizingly long seconds and still no emotion could be seen on Cousins' stoic face. Mary was demanding answers and until this point, no one had heard Cousins' motive for the murder.

Her anger was warranted. Elmo Griggs, the pathologist who performed Andrew's autopsy, said of the roughly 9,500 autopsies he has done, this was by far "the worst homicide (he had) ever seen."

Griggs reported Andrew was found with five gunshot wounds and 19 stab wounds. The body also appeared to have been kicked several times. After hearing the horrific way in which his son committed the murder, Cousins' father, Ernest Cousins, began silently crying while his daughter moved closer to the crook of her mother's arm.

For the families, friends and students held captive in the basement lab of the Electrical Engineering building that day, the memory of the murder of Andrew will never lessen in severity. Of the 12 students present in the classroom, one left Purdue indefinitely and several changed majors to avoid entering the building again.

One student who was in the classroom and wished to remain anonymous at the hearing read a letter as a representative for the group. He said many had experienced recurring nightmares, lost hours of sleep, felt afraid in public or in their own homes, experienced a severe lack of trust in other people and had trouble concentrating on even simple tasks.

"For weeks afterward, I could see the pain of that day reflected in my classmates faces," he said.

The student said he involuntarily thought about the murder 90 percent of the time he was awake and also said he felt uncomfortable around large computer equipment, meaning his major of electrical computer engineering caused him intense feelings of distress. After his testimony, he asked Judge Thomas Busch for the maximum sentence for Cousins.

Everyone, from Andrew's family to Jean Morrell, his calculus teacher in high school, pled to Busch to ensure the maximum sentence.

Upon every cry for punishment, Cousins didn't flinch.

After the testimonies, the defense was allowed a statement. The room was hushed wondering if Cousins would break his vow of silence to satiate the burning question on everyone's minds.

Busch asked if the defense had prepared a statement.

"Yes, your honor," came the voice of Cousins, a voice most had not heard before this point. "I have a confession to make. I lied to the doctors. I flat out lied."

Cousins continued an eloquent and seemingly rehearsed dialogue admitting his lies to the many therapists and addressing his mother's attempts to get him the help she thought he needed.

"My mother is a skilled clinician, except in the case of her son."

His mental state was a point of contention between the two and after his hospitalization, contact was nearly non-existent between the family and Cousins. He spoke lucidly and clearly when he explained why he killed Andrew.

"I killed Andrew Boldt because I wanted to. In general, I do what I want and I deal with the consequences later."

Tiptecanoe County prosecutor Patrick Harrington, turned in his chair to glance at the stony face of a man who admitted to knowingly and deliberately killing in cold blood. The prosecutor's wide eyes then closed as he shook his head in what one can only assume was surprise and disgust.

Busch took very little time in making his sentencing decision. Cousins was to receive the maximum punishment of 65 years in prison and was not deemed mentally ill. He stated because Cousins had refused help and treatment in the past, he clearly did not want said treatment and was not going to be required during his time in prison. Busch did say, however, if Cousins were to request treatment, it would be provided to him.

"Envy led to malice, malice led to hatred ... that's not insanity. That's not mental illness," Busch said. "This was an act of terror."

Cousins sentenced to 65 years: Read blog of Friday's hearing

Just as quietly and calmly as he was led in, Cousins was cuffed and led out of the small courtroom. His statement of "That's all I have to say, your honor," hung heavy in the air.

September 22, 2014: TCPSN

Tramell Lawrence White, 25, of Lafayette, IN was sentenced today to 8.5 years for his guilty pleas to Possession of a Narcotic Drug (D Fel), Battery Resulting in Serious Bodily Injury (C Fel), and Battery (B Misd). Sentence breakdown: IDOC 7 years; Probation 1.5 years (1 year supervised, 6 mos. unsupervised); DOC Programs: CLIFF Program. Terms of Probation: waive 4th Amendment Rights to Search & Seizure, submit to random drug screens, notify probation of any change of address, obtain gainful employment; no alcohol or controlled substance - no bar, tavern or liquor store, 2 year DL suspension upon release from IDOC, complete the Character Restoration Program.

September 22, 2014: WLFITV

Daycare employee charged with child porn faces judge

By Elisabeth Rentschler

WEST LAFAYETTE, Ind. (WLFI) – 24-year-old Adam Justice made his first court appearance Monday after being arrested and charged with three counts of possession of child pornography and three counts of child exploitation.

For the last year, Justice has been employed with Just Us Kids early learning center, which is owned by his parents. Justice was also an after school teacher/counselor at Burnett Creek Elementary.

According to court documents, the investigation began last month. On four separate occasions between Aug. 1-23, a detective with the Lafayette Police Department was able to download three files that matched the IP address on Justice's laptop.

The three files contained sexually explicit videos of both girls and boys under the age of seven.

Sunday, detectives with both Lafayette and Indiana State Police went to Justice's home, where he lives with his parents. There, they found three more pornographic videos on his laptop, involving both girls and boys between the ages of 7 and 12.

Justice admitted to both downloading and sharing child pornography and admitted to being aroused by the videos.

A letter from Just Us Kids was sent out to parents Sunday. The letter states that due to his arrest, Justice has been fired from the early learning center. He will also no longer be supervising at Burnett Creek.

The letter also states that for now, the investigation shows that the incident does not involve any children from Just Us Kids. ISP Sgt. Kim Riley said this is an ongoing investigation.

News 18 spoke with Just Us Kids' attorney, Wayne Szulkowski, Monday who said Justice, like every other employee, passed an FBI background check before being hired.

He said nobody had any idea this was going on.

"Parents are devastated," said Szulkowski. "You know, they have 45 employees here, a lot of people depend on their jobs. They've built this business up for over 30 years and their primary focus has been on the safety of the children and making sure the children are safe."

Justice was arrested Sunday and booked into the Tippecanoe County Jail. He's being held on a \$25,000 surety bond. A jury trial for Justice has been set for Jan. 20.

Monday, Just Us Kids will hold a parent teacher conference at 7 p.m. to discuss the situation.

September 22, 2014: TCPSN

Adam MB Justice, 24, of West Lafayette was charged today with three (3) counts of Child Exploitation (Level 5 Fel), and three (3) counts of Possession of Child Pornography (Level 6 Fel) by the Tippecanoe County Prosecutor's office.

September 22, 2014: WLFITV

Daycare worker arrested for child pornography

By Associated Press

WEST LAFAYETTE, Ind. (WLFI) – News 18 has confirmed that an employee of Just Us Kids early learning center in West Lafayette has been arrested for possession and distribution of child pornography.

Adam Justice was booked into the Tippecanoe County Jail around 2 p.m. Sunday with no bond.

Indiana State Police Sgt. Kim Riley said Justice faces three preliminary counts of possession of child pornography and three preliminary counts of distributing child pornography.

Several parents reached out to News 18 with concerns after receiving a letter from Just Us Kids management. In the letter, director Nancy Beall said Justice had been terminated from the after school program due to his arrest. The letter also stated that management does not believe the incident involved any kids in the after school program.

News 18 spoke with Just Us Kids' attorney Wayne Szulkowski. He referred News 18 to the letter and said the learning center is cooperating with the investigation.

Indiana State Police is investigating the incident and calls this an ongoing investigation.

September 21, 2014: The Exponent

Cousins says 'I'm glad he is dead' of murder victim Andrew Boldt

By HALEY CHECKLEY Special Projects Editor

Cody Cousins was sentenced to 65 years in prison for the murder of fellow Boilermaker Andrew Boldt Friday.

Judge Thomas Busch found the defendant guilty of murder, but not mentally ill after hearing testimony of three psychiatrists, two detectives, parents of both the defendant and the victim and also Boldt's professor for whom he was a teaching assistant.

Cousins entered Tippecanoe County Superior Court No. 2 shortly before 1 p.m. Friday to a full courtroom. The families of the victim and of the defendant were present as the proceedings began.

On Aug. 21, Cousins' pled guilty in court to the deliberate murder of Boldt. Friday, the court's decision was whether Cousins' was eligible to be found guilty with mental illness and subsequently receive therapy during his time in prison or if he was not.

Court appointed psychiatrist Steven Berger was called to the stand first and said Cousins did show symptoms of intense psychosis most often present while under the influence of amphetamines during his examination of the defendant. Cousins' abuse of these psychoactive drugs was what attributed to the murder, according to Berger.

"Whatever thoughts he's having is coming from the drugs he's taking," Berger said. However he did add that mental illness or mania did not play a part in the Jan. 21 murder.

Tippecanoe County Prosecutor Patrick Harrington said the analysis of 12 to 16 mental health professionals all had a different opinion on what Cousins was suffering from. However, Harrington said Cousins told psychiatrists that Boldt "represented evil." The community waited for 8 months to determine why this terrible crime occurred and the reason came from Cousins' own mouth.

Mary Boldt, Andrew's mother, implored of her son's attacker, "What did he do to make you so mad?" as if expecting an answer. Cousins remained stoic nearly through the entire proceedings. Remorse, if any was felt, was buried deep within.

When Cousins was allowed to address the court, he began by saying, "I have a confession to make. I lied to the doctors. I made up all the crap about Andrew being evil ... I do what I want and I deal with the consequences later."

Pathologist and attorney Elmo Griggs reported Boldt's body was found with 5 gunshot wounds, 3 in the head and 2 in the lower back and 19 stab wounds. These shots were fired from a .38 caliber gun that was purchased on Jan. 14. Cousins then registered for a training session to learn how to use the gun and returned Jan. 17 and 18 to practice at the gun range.

On Jan. 21, records indicate Cousins attended his classes that morning, returning to his apartment later presumably to retrieve his weapons and then came back to campus. There, he entered the Electrical Engineering building, proceeded to the classroom Boldt was instructing in and killed him.

In an open letter read by a student witness, Cousins was described as being “the only man who was thinking clearly in that room” during the attack.

After the extenuating evidence was gathered, Cousins was sentenced the maximum sentence of 65 years in prison while his family sat behind him, holding each other and crying. Cousins was not found by the court to be mentally ill and will not receive treatment unless he asks for it.

Harrington, in an interview after the trial said regarding Cousins words, “(They) should chill not only you to the bone, but also society.”

Purdue released a statement about the case Friday after the hearing:

“Purdue University appreciates the work of the prosecutor’s office and law enforcement in the case. The University was diligent in its cooperation to ensure justice would be served and to respect the legal process and sentence. Our hearts will always be broken for the Boldt family, and nothing decided today will bring Andrew back. We will carry with us always a memory of a promising young man whose life ended all too soon.”

September 21, 2014: The Exponent

Final sentencing for murderer Cody Cousins today

By HALEY CHECKLEY & REED SELLERS Special Projects Editor & City Editor

Still no motive has been disclosed in the case of Cody Cousins and it is likely to remain as such even after the final sentencing today.

Cousins, a 24-year-old former Purdue student, entered the Electrical Engineering Building the morning of Jan. 21 with a gun and a knife. He then went to a basement classroom, encountered 21-year-old instructor and former Purdue student Andrew Boldt, who was teaching at the time, and shot and stabbed him. Purdue Police reported Boldt was dead upon their arrival.

Through the court proceedings this spring, Cousins asked for both a change of venue and a change of representation. Though the trials were not moved from Tippecanoe County, Cousins was granted a court-appointed counsel with Special Public Defender Kirk Freeman.

On Aug. 21, Cousins plead guilty to the murder without a plea agreement. In May, Freeman filed a notice that his client planned on using the insanity defense. This defense is now void due to the guilty plea, according to Tippecanoe County Prosecutor Patrick Harrington. Because of this, Cousins’ sentence options are either guilty with mental illness or guilty without mental illness.

“When a person pleads guilty they are admitting they did the crime, so any defense is gone,” Harrington said. “The issue for the court is not insanity, but whether the court finds the defendant suffers from a mental illness. Under either findings, guilty or guilty but mentally ill, the defendant still faces the same penalty: 45 to 65 years in prison.”

Harrington added that mental illness is proven only by expert testimony. Steven Berger, a local psychiatrist who was appointed by the court to evaluate Cousins, explained what expert witnesses like himself look for when asked to evaluate a defendant.

“I’d ask the evaluatee: ‘Did you plan this event?’” Berger said with regard to evaluating premeditation, adding that normally the evaluatee would not give a “straightforward” answer. Berger gave the example of a defendant that had hit and killed someone with their car and told the psychiatrist he did not plan to hit the victim.

In that case, Berger said he would “gather all of the information there is to gather, including additional history from the evaluatee, and see if that all fits together. Now, if the person that he hit with his car was trying to hone in on his girlfriend, there’s a suspicion there as to whether that was accidental or not.”

Berger also said a psychiatrist would be looking for a state-defined standard to determine whether or not the defendant had a mental illness. Could the defendant appreciate the wrongfulness of their conduct? He emphasized that there is a distinct difference between knowing and appreciating the conduct.

“Knowing is just a yes or no question,” he said. “To appreciate means that he had some understanding of what he was doing.”

Proceedings today will begin with court-appointed doctors’ testimonies, followed by the testimonies of victims and witnesses, then statements from the state and defense. If Cousins is found mentally ill, the Department of Corrections will provide mental health treatment during his sentence.

A decorum order presented from the courthouse states that any member of the public who chooses to view the proceedings must be present before the session begins at 1 p.m. If at any time a spectator chooses to leave the courtroom during the session, they will not be allowed back into the room until the next break in proceedings.

Only members of the media will be permitted to have electronic devices in the courtroom. Any member of the public who displays an electronic device will have their property confiscated and the individual will be banned from the courthouse.

Additionally, if space inside of the courtroom is not able to be secured by a member of the public, it is requested that all hallways, entrances and exits for all offices and facilities in the courthouse remain unobstructed.

The proceedings are expected to take anywhere from two to four hours.

Follow editor-in-chief Saran Mishra on Twitter @Saran_Mishra and the Exponent @purdueexponent for live updates on trial proceedings.

September 19, 2014: WLFITV

IT worker charged for sharing child porn

TIPPECANOE COUNTY, Ind. – A West Lafayette man employed in Purdue’s IT department has been charged with possession of child pornography.

Daniel Shaw, 47, faces two felony counts of child pornography along with another felony count of child exploitation after investigators say used file sharing software to share illegal images and videos.

Documents state that a detective with Indiana State Police was able to download the files from an IP address registered to Shaw. The IP address sharing the files was identified several times between January and August of 2013. Investigators say the images and videos had previously been identified as known child pornography by the Center for Missing and Exploited Children.

A search warrant of Shaw’s residence was served in August 2013. Documents say that Shaw admitted to downloading child porn during the search, but denied knowledge that he was sharing the content.

According to Purdue University, Shaw was an application administrator at the university from August 2009 to September 2013. Specific details regarding the end of his tenure were not made available.

September 19, 2014: TCPSN

David Leroy Amos, 41, of Indianapolis, IN was charged today with Fraud on a Financial Institution (Level 5 Fel), Forgery (Level 6 Fel), and Attempted Theft (Level 6 Fel) by the Tippecanoe County Prosecutor's office.

September 19, 2014: TCPSN

Daniel P Shaw, 47, of West Lafayette, IN was charged today with Child Exploitation (C Fel), and two (2) counts of Possession of Child Pornography (D Fel) by the Tippecanoe County Prosecutor's office.

September 18, 2014: WLFTV

Bond set at \$1 million for accused Purdue strangler

By Dan Klein

WEST LAFAYETTE, Ind. (WLFI) – Bond has been set for the Purdue student accused of trying to strangle a woman on campus last month with a phone cord.

As News 18 has already reported, Boda Wu is charged in connection with an incident on Aug. 31. He faces five felonies in that incident. However, the mug shot provided is from an arrest on May 3.

According to court records, a judge set his bond at \$1 million Wednesday. Of that amount, \$500,000 must be paid in cash. The rest can be paid for with a surety bond.

Wu is due back in court Oct. 24.

September 17, 2014: TCPSN

Christopher Ryan Frank, 26, of Lafayette, IN was charged today with Burglary (Level 4 Fel), Residential Entry (Level 6 Fel), Theft (Level 6 Fel), and Resisting Law Enforcement (A Misd) by the Tippecanoe County Prosecutor's office.

September 17, 2014: TCPSN

Michael Lee Craven, 32, and Timothy Joel Holt, 58, both from Indianapolis, IN were charged with Fraud on a Financial Institution (Level 5 Fel), Forgery (Level 6 Fel) and Attempted Theft (Level 6 Fel) by the Tippecanoe County Prosecutor's office.

September 17, 2014: TCPSN

Tony Curtis Lester, Sr., 43, of Lafayette, IN was charged today with Battery Committed by Means of a Deadly Weapon (Level 5 Fel) and Criminal Recklessness While Armed with a Deadly Weapon (Level 6 Fel) by the Tippecanoe County Prosecutor's office.

September 17, 2014: Lafayette Journal and Courier

Judge sets \$1M bond for student accused of choke attack

Steven Porter, sporter@jconline.com

Getting out of jail soon will be an expensive move for Purdue University student Boda Wu, who is accused of attacking a female student on campus late last month.

Tippecanoe Magistrate Judge Sean Persin set bond Wednesday for the 21-year-old at \$1 million.

"I've set your bond high in this case due to concerns about safety to the community," Persin told Wu during his initial court appearance.

He explained that \$500,000 must be paid in cash, with the other half coming from a bail bondsman.

Since a bondsman would likely charge 10 percent, Wu would need \$550,000 to post both his cash and surety bonds. Even if he does so, however, he won't be permitted to leave Indiana.

"I've required the surety portion due to concerns about flight," Persin said, noting that a bondsman would require Wu, who is not an American citizen, to turn in his passport.

Wu, a sophomore physics major, is a Chinese national. His initial hearing was facilitated Wednesday by a certified Mandarin translator, who participated via conference call.

After Persin and the translator explained the five felony charges against him, Wu acknowledged that he understood each allegation stemming from the Aug. 31 attack.

The victim told police that Wu didn't say a word when he wrapped a phone cord, then his hands, around her neck until witnesses intervened, court documents state.

Wu was arrested, then admitted to a hospital, where he remained until Tuesday, Persin said. Persin noted that Wu hadn't made contact with his family since the arrest.

Wu said he'll ask his parents to hire an attorney and post bond for him, so Persin set a hearing for Friday to determine whether Wu will need a court-appointed attorney.

Persin also issued a no-contact order barring Wu from interacting with his victim or even being in her presence.

After Wu responded with a blank stare to mentions of the victim, Persin asked if he recognized the name of the student he allegedly attacked.

Wu shook his head side to side.

September 16, 2014: WLFI TV

WL armed robber gets 30 years in prison



WEST LAFAYETTE, Ind. (WLFI) – An Indianapolis man who robbed a West Lafayette business with a gun is sentenced to 30 years in prison.

A jury convicted 37-year-old Malcolm Smith on six charges including two counts of robbery with a deadly weapon and being a habitual offender.

In October 2012, prosecutors said Smith and another man robbed the Check into Cash at gunpoint. Officers found a pair of sweatpants with Smith's wallet and social security card inside on Cumberland Avenue after the robbery.

He was arrested four months later in Indianapolis.

As News 18 reported, the SUV believed to be the getaway car was found burned in Hancock County almost nine hours after the robbery.

Smith received 20 years in prison for the various criminal charges with 10 years added on for being a habitual offender.

September 16, 2014: Lafayette Journal and Courier

Armed robber sentenced after third jury trial



Steven Porter, sporter@jconline.com

Armed robber sentenced after third jury trial

Malcolm Smith, 37, was sentenced Tuesday to 30 years for robbing a Check Into Cash at gunpoint nearly two years ago.

He and his co-defendant, Landon Harbert, were convicted last month after two mistrials last year.

The duo entered the store on Sagamore Parkway in West Lafayette shortly after noon Oct. 23, 2012, court documents state.

Officers who responded to the scene reportedly found Smith's wallet in a pair of black sweatpants discarded along Cumberland Avenue as he fled the scene with cash, according to a probable cause affidavit. More clothing was found discarded along Soldiers Home Road.

During his sentencing hearing, Smith told Tippecanoe Superior Court 2 Judge Thomas Busch he was dissatisfied with the services provided by his defense attorney.

"The judicial system has become so polluted," he said.

Smith and Harbert had hired their own attorneys for their first two jury trials, but they had to rely on court-appointed counsel for the third.

"Is that fair? I mean, I think not," Smith said.

Before pronouncing a sentence, Busch said he made every effort to appoint an attorney of Smith's choosing.

Kirk Freeman, who'd represented Smith for the first two trials, was still owed money for his services, so he couldn't ethically continue as a court-appointed counsel, Busch said.

Defense attorney Timothy Broden, whom Busch said he holds in high regard, was appointed instead.

Smith was sentenced to 20 years for Class B felony armed robbery, the maximum penalty allowed for the offense.

He was also convicted as a habitual offender, for which he was sentenced to the 10-year minimum. Court records state he was convicted of possessing stolen property in 2008 and dealing cocaine in 1994 and 1998.

In addition to 30 years executed with Indiana Department of Correction, Smith was ordered to pay \$1,084.75 in restitution to Check Into Cash, a bill he and Harbert will begin paying off \$20 per week after their release.

Broden said his client intends to appeal, so Busch appointed attorney Chad Montgomery to represent Smith on appeal.

Harbert is scheduled to be sentenced Sept. 26.

September 16, 2014: Lafayette Journal and Courier

Judge reviews decorum for Cousins' sentencing hearing

Ron Wilkins, rwilkins@jconline.com

Editor's note: An earlier version of this story incorrectly stated that Cousins had reached a plea agreement with prosecutors. In fact, he pleaded guilty to murder last month without a plea agreement.

The image of a flock of fedora-wearing reporters rushing from a courtroom to the nearest payphone to be the first with the big story passed into history years ago, but the desire of reporters to be first with the breaking news is alive and well.

Tippecanoe Superior 2 Judge Thomas Busch said he knows of the high media interest, as well as the public's interest, in Purdue shooter Cody Cousins' sentencing hearing on Friday, and he's set parameters and prescribed decorum for the media during and after the hearing. He met with reporters and photographers Monday afternoon to review those expectations.

Cousins, now 24, pleaded guilty to murder last month, admitting he shot and stabbed 21-year-old Andrew Boldt in a basement classroom in the Electrical Engineering building about noon Jan. 21. The slaying drew national headlines and unsettled the community.

Busch will determine Friday if Cousins was mentally ill when he killed Boldt. Initially, Cousins' attorney indicated he would apply the insanity defense, but when Cousins pleaded guilty, it ruled out insanity. Busch, however, could find Cousins was mentally ill and order the Warsaw man to receive mental health treatment at the Indiana Department of Correction facility where Cousins will serve his sentence. Cousins faces a sentence range between 45 and 65 years in prison.

Since the hearing is open to the public, seating is at a premium, so Busch designated seating for Boldt's family, Cousins' family and members of the media.

But don't look for news coverage with images from inside the courtroom.

"I am required by the rules of judicial discipline not to allow photography, video or audio recordings," Busch told the reporters and photographers who attended Monday's briefing.

At the Journal & Courier's request, Busch will allow reporters to tweet from the courtroom.

"I have got an opinion that tweeting is not broadcasting," Busch said as he explained why reporters will be allowed to post on social media.

The public is not allowed to tweet or have their electronic devices on, Busch said, adding if members of the media attempt to record any part of the hearing, they are subjected to a contempt of court order.

Follow reporters Steven Porter and Ron Wilkins to receive J&C tweets from the courtroom. The hearing begins at 1 p.m. and is expected to take between two and four hours. At the conclusion of the hearing, Busch will pronounce sentence on Cousins.

September 16, 2014: TCPSN

Malcolm Smith, 37, of Indianapolis, IN was sentenced today to 30 years IDOC after a Tippecanoe County Jury found him guilty of Conspiracy to Commit Robbery with a Deadly Weapon, two counts of Robbery with a Deadly Weapon, two counts of Theft, and Habitual Offender.

September 15, 2014: TCPSN

Five men, associated in an enterprise, who engaged in a pattern of racketeering activities are charged with multiple drug felonies in Tippecanoe County



Nicholas Scott Cunningham, 30, Preston Michael Maslin, 32, Anthony David Owen, 41, Daniel Lee Reid, 28, and Glen A. Schmick, 57, of Lafayette, IN have been charged with the following felony drug crimes by the Tippecanoe County Prosecutor's office:

Scott Cunningham charges:

- Count I: Corrupt Business Influence (Level 5 Fel) - Refer to details in probable cause image Count I
- Count II: Conspiracy to Commit Dealing in a Narcotic Drug – Heroin - (Level 2 Fel)
- Count III: Dealing in a Narcotic Drug – Heroin (B Fel)
- Count IV: Dealing in a Narcotic Drug – Heroin (B Fel)
- Count V: Dealing in a Narcotic Drug – Cocaine (B Fel)

Preston Michael Maslin charges:

- Count I: Corrupt Business Influence (Level 5 Fel) - Refer to details in probable cause image Count I
- Count II: Conspiracy to Commit Dealing in Cocaine – Crack (Level 3 Fel)
- Count III: Dealing in Cocaine (Level 3 Fel)
- Count IV: Resisting Law Enforcement (D Fel)

Anthony David Owen charges:

Count I: Corrupt Business Influence (Level 5 Fel) - Refer to details in probable cause image Count I
Count II: Conspiracy to Commit Dealing in a Narcotic Drug – Heroin (Level 2 Fel)
Count III: Conspiracy to Commit Dealing in a Narcotic Drug – Cocaine (Level 3 Fel)
Count IV: Dealing in a Narcotic Drug – Heroin (Level 5 Fel)
Count V: Dealing in a Narcotic Drug – Heroin (Level 4 Fel)
Count VI: Dealing in Cocaine (Level 3 Fel)
Count VII: Dealing in a Narcotic Drug – Heroin (Level 4 Fel)
Count VIII: Dealing in a Narcotic Drug – Heroin (Level 2 Fel)
Count IX: Dealing in a Synthetic or Synthetic Drug Lookalike Substance (Level 6 Fel)
Count X: Possession of Paraphernalia (A Misd)
Count XI: Resisting Law Enforcement (D Fel)
Count XII: Habitual Offender

Daniel Lee Reid charges:

Count I: Corrupt Business Influence (Level 5 Fel) - Refer to details in probable cause image Count I
Count II: Conspiracy to Commit Dealing in Cocaine (Level 3 Fel)
Count III: Dealing in Cocaine (Level 4 Fel)

Glen A. Schmick charges:

Count I: Corrupt Business Influence (Level 5 Fel) - Refer to details in probable cause image Count I
Count II: Conspiracy to Commit Dealing in a Narcotic Drug – Heroin (Level 2 Fel)
Count III: Conspiracy to Commit Dealing in a Narcotic Drug – Cocaine (Level 3 Fel)
Count IV: Dealing in a Narcotic Drug – Heroin (Level 5 Fel)
Count V: Dealing in Cocaine (Level 4 Fel)
Count VI: Dealing in a Narcotic Drug – Heroin (Level 3 Fel)
Count VII: Dealing in Cocaine (Level 3 Fel)
Count VIII: Dealing in Heroin (Level 4 Fel)
Count IX: Dealing in a Narcotic Drug – Heroin (Level 2 Fel)
Count X: Dealing in a Synthetic or Synthetic Drug Lookalike Substance (Level 6 Fel)
Count XI: Possession of Paraphernalia (A Misd)

INFORMATION OF CORRUPT BUSINESS INFLUENCE

(Level 5 Felony)

The Prosecuting Attorney for the Twenty-third Judicial Circuit of the State of Indiana informs that:

On or about June, 2014 through July 23, 2014, in Tippecanoe County, State of Indiana, David Anthony Owen, Glen A. Schmick, Nicholas Scott Cunningham, Daniel Lee Reid, Preston Michael Maslin and/or unknown others, being associated with an enterprise, which was a group and an association in fact, having the purpose of dealing, and possessing with intent to deliver, Heroin, Cocaine and/or a Synthetic Drug or Synthetic Drug Lookalike Substance, did knowingly or intentionally conduct or participate in the activities of said enterprise through a pattern of racketeering activity, to wit:

- 1) David Anthony Owen, Glen A. Schmick, Nicholas Scott Cunningham, and/or unknown others, did Conspire to Commit Dealing in a Narcotic Drug;
- 2) David Anthony Owen, Glen A. Schmick, Daniel Lee Reid, Preston Michael Maslin and/or unknown others, did Conspire to Commit Dealing in Cocaine;
- 3) David Anthony Owen, Glen A. Schmick, and/or unknown others, did Conspire to Commit Dealing in a Synthetic Drug or Synthetic Drug Lookalike Substance;
- 4) On one or more occasions David Anthony Owen, Glen A. Schmick and/or Nicholas Scott Cunningham, did Commit, Attempt to Commit, or Aid and Abet the Commission of Dealing in a Narcotic Drug;
- 5) On one or more occasions David Anthony Owen, Glen A. Schmick, Daniel Lee Reid and/or Preston Michael Maslin did Commit, Attempt to Commit, or Aid and Abet the Commission of Dealing in Cocaine;
- 6) On one or more occasions David Anthony Owen and/or Glen A. Schmick, did Commit, Attempt to Commit, or Aid and Abet the Commission of Dealing in a Synthetic Drug or Synthetic Drug Lookalike Substance;

All of which is contrary to the form of the statute in such cases made and provided, to wit: Indiana Code 35-45-6-2, and against the peace and dignity of the State of Indiana.

September 15, 2014: TCPSN

Anthony David Owen, 42, of Lafayette, IN was charged today with Dealing in a Narcotic Drug - Heroin (A Fel), Possession of a Narcotic Drug - Heroin (C Fel), Possession of a Schedule III Controlled Substance - Hydrocodone (D Fel), Possession of a Schedule III Controlled Substance - Alprazolam (D Fel), Possession of a Schedule IV Controlled Substance - Clonazepam (D Fel), and Operating a Vehicle While Suspended (A Misd) by the Tippecanoe County Prosecutor's office.

September 15, 2014: Lafayette Journal and Courier

Five charged in drug sales ring

Mikel Livingston, mlivingston@jconline.com

Five Lafayette men have been charged with several drug-related charges after they were allegedly caught selling heroin and cocaine to an undercover police officer.

Nicholas Scott Cunningham, 30; Preston Michael Maslin, 32; Anthony David Owen, 41; Daniel Lee Reid, 28; and Glen A. Schmick, 57, were charged Monday.

Each faces a charge of corrupt business influence, a Level 5 felony; conspiracy to commit dealing in a narcotic drug, a Level 2 felony; and three charges of dealing in a narcotic drug, all Class B felonies.

The men were charged following drug sales allegedly made to an undercover officer spanning June to July. One of the sales was made at Columbian Park in the presence of children.

The officer bought from the men several times, according to the affidavit of probable cause, culminating in a purchase July 22 at a Courtland Avenue home police had placed under surveillance.

When the officer was asked to use heroin in front of the group, the officer left the residence. Police then arrested the group and searched the house.

Police found synthetic marijuana, a pill bottle containing 15.8 grams of heroin and a large set of scales.

Owen faces several additional charges: Dealing in a narcotic drug, a Class A felony; possession of a narcotic drug, a Class C felony; three charges of possession of a Schedule III controlled substance, a Class D felony; and operating a vehicle while suspended, a Class A misdemeanor.

Those charges stem from a Sept. 26, 2013, incident in which an LPD officer observed Owen driving while his driving privileges were suspended. A K-9 unit then alerted police to a narcotic odor. A search turned up a pill bottle containing several types of pills and about 32 baggies of what testing indicated was heroin.

September 11, 2014: TCPSN

Bobby Joe Landreth, 30, of Lafayette, IN has been charged with Burglary (B Fel), Forgery (C Fel), and two counts of Theft (D Fel) by the Tippecanoe County Prosecutor's office.

September 9, 2014: TCPSN

Ryan Moynagh, 33, pled guilty today to Murder and Arson resulting in bodily injury in the death of Katelyn Sue Lane, 6, and injury of David Trueblood, 53 in Tippecanoe County, Indiana. The plea agreement requires a sentence range from 71 to 80 years, with a minimum of 65 years executed at DOC on the murder conviction, and the remaining 6-15 years left to the discretion of the court as to where and how it will be served.

September 9, 2014: WLFITV

Man charged after attempting to strangle woman

TIPPECANOE COUNTY, Ind. (WLF) — A Purdue student faces multiple felonies after prosecutors said he approached a woman on campus and tried to strangle her with a phone cord.

Last month, Purdue police were dispatched to Purdue Mall Drive. A woman said 21-year-old Boda Wu, of West Lafayette, came up to her and wrapped a phone cord around her neck.

The woman managed to scream and get untangled from the cord. According to court documents, that is when Wu grabbed her throat with both hands.

Witnesses heard the victim scream and ran over to help get Wu off the woman. Those witnesses held Wu down until police arrived.

The victim stated that she did not know Wu, and he never spoke during the attack.

Wu is facing five charges including battery, strangulation and criminal confinement.

Wu was previously arrested by Purdue police May 3 on charges of disorderly conduct, resisting law enforcement and battery. News 18 has left a message with the Purdue Police Department to take a closer look into this incident.

September 9, 2014: TCPSN

Boda Wu, 21, of West Lafayette, IN was charged today with Criminal Confinement While Armed with a Deadly Weapon (Level 3 Fel), Criminal Confinement Resulting in Bodily Injury (Level 5 Fel), Strangulation (Level 6 Fel), and Battery (Level 6 Fel) by the Tippecanoe County Prosecutor's office. This case was investigated by the Purdue University Police Department.

September 8, 2014: TCPSN

Gregorio Felipe, 39, has been charged with Child Molesting (A Fel), and two counts of Child Molesting (C Fel) by the Tippecanoe County Prosecutor's office.

September 8, 2014: TCPSN

Joel G Rhode, 43, has been charged by the Tippecanoe County Prosecutor's office with two counts of Child Molesting (C Fel).

September 5, 2014: TCPSN

Sara Pulley 24, of Frankfort, IN was sentenced to 10 years for her guilty pleas to Conspiracy to Manufacture Methamphetamine (B Fel) and Neglect of a Dependent (C Fel). Sentence breakdown: TCCC 4 years, Probation 6 years - 3 supervised, 3 unsupervised, \$2,036.04 to Indiana State Police for methamphetamine clean up. The defendant had no criminal history.

September 5, 2014: TCPSN

Greggory Joe Cataldo, 20, of Logansport, IN was sentenced to 15 years after a Tippecanoe County Jury found him guilty of Attempted Robbery Resulting in Bodily Injury (B Fel) on August 8, 2014. Sentence breakdown: IDOC 13 years, TCCC: 2 years at LTBD.

September 4, 2014: Lafayette Journal and Courier

Drug charges spring from sting operations

Steven Porter, sporter@jconline.com

A series of sting operations carried out by federal, state and local law enforcement agencies resulted this week in major drug-dealing charges against a Lafayette man.

Charles Hunter III faces six Class A felonies — each of which carries a maximum penalty of 50 years — for allegedly selling cocaine, heroin and ecstasy to undercover officers and confidential informants.

Hunter, 26, sold more than 25 grams of cocaine and more than 72 grams of heroin over the course of five controlled buys this year, according to a probable cause affidavit.

He was booked just before 4 p.m. Thursday at Tippecanoe County Jail, where he's being held in lieu of \$10,000 cash bond plus \$100,000 surety.

He's scheduled to make an initial court appearance Friday afternoon.

The charges filed against Hunter demonstrate just how dramatically Indiana's drug laws changed July 1, when the legislature's revised criminal code took effect.

Selling more than 3 grams of cocaine or a narcotic in Indiana prior to July 1 constituted a Class A felony, punishable by 20 to 50 years.

Under the revised legal code, however, Hunter's most serious offense would be entered as a Level 2 felony, punishable by 10 to 30 years.

Based on the weight of the drugs listed in court documents for each controlled buy, the other five charges would likely be entered as lower-level felonies, which carry even lighter penalties.

Thursday wasn't Hunter's first time in jail. It wasn't even his first time this week.

Lafayette police arrested him early Sunday in the 900 block of Kossuth Street on a traffic violation, according to a bulletin released by the department.

Jail staff report that he was released before noon the same day on \$505 cash bond.

Hunter's criminal history includes a long list of traffic violations, beginning in 2004, when the 16-year-old drove without ever receiving a license, a Class C misdemeanor.

Court records state that his license was suspended twice in 2010, once in 2011 and once in 2012.

And after admitting to a seat belt violation in January this year, he was charged in April with a Class D felony for allegedly driving without a license as a habitual traffic offender.

A jury trial is scheduled in that case for October.

On top of the traffic law violations and his alleged drug dealing, Hunter was convicted of committing robbery and conspiracy to commit robbery, both Class B felonies, in 2006

Eighteen other felony counts in the case were dismissed, per the terms of a plea agreement, and Hunter was sentenced to 20 years with Indiana Department of Correction.

That sentence was reduced in 2008 to eight years in prison followed by two years of probation. He finished serving the sentence in 2011.

September 4, 2014: TCPSN

Charles David Hunter III, 26, of Lafayette, IN has been charged with Dealing in Cocaine (A Fel), Dealing in Cocaine Within 1,000 Feet of Village Square Apartments (A Fel), Dealing in a Schedule I Controlled Substance Within 1,000 Feet of Village Square Apartments (A Fel), Dealing in Cocaine within 1,000 Feet of Columbian Park (A Fel), Dealing in a Narcotic Drug – Heroin (A Fel), and Dealing in a Narcotic Drug – Heroin (A Fel) by the Tippecanoe County Prosecutor's office. The West Lafayette Narcotics Unit conducted this investigation.

September 3, 2014: Lafayette Journal and Courier

Payton T Jarrard, 29, of Lafayette, IN was charged today with Child Molesting (Level 1 Fel) and Habitual Offender by the Tippecanoe County Prosecutor's office.

August 31, 2014: Lafayette Journal and Courier

Purdue fraternity member charged with battery

Steven Porter, sporter@jconline.com

Criminal charges filed Thursday against a Sigma Nu fraternity member allege that he injured two overnight guests while they visited the chapter house in West Lafayette last fall.

Eric Todderud, 21, of Fishers faces two felonies and a misdemeanor for allegedly battering two males on Sept. 14, knocking one of them unconscious.

Bryan Boehm and Nathaniel Yanz told Purdue police that they were invited guests of fraternity member Eric Waner, court documents state.

Boehm and Yanz were standing in a hallway near Waner's bedroom just after midnight when Todderud approached them and asked who they were, a probable cause affidavit states. He then allegedly punched them, causing Boehm to fall to the ground and lose consciousness for a short period of time.

The guests didn't know Todderud, but other fraternity brothers helped police identify him as the suspect, the affidavit states.

When police interviewed Todderud, who was 20 years old at the time, they reportedly detected alcohol on his breath. Court documents indicate he recounted the confrontation with Boehm and Yanz quite differently.

Todderud told officers he asked two people who had been loud and cursing to leave the house. He then escorted them out, "lightly shoving them towards the door," the affidavit states.

Once outside, one of the two struck Todderud's forehead, according to Todderud's account. Officers noted a fresh laceration on his forehead, as well as three small wounds on the middle finger of his right hand.

When Purdue police followed up with Boehm in December, more than three months later, he reportedly continued to suffer from daily headaches. He had three teeth extracted and bone grafts placed in his jaw.

It would be some time before his jaw healed enough to accept implants, even longer before replacement teeth could be added, he reportedly told police.

Todderud faces three charges: battery resulting in serious bodily injury to Boehm, a Class C felony; criminal recklessness resulting in serious bodily injury to Boehm, a Class D felony; and battery on Yanz, a Class A misdemeanor. The lead charge carries a possible penalty of two to eight years.

Todderud is named as a current member on the chapter's website. Boehm and Yanz are not. Waner is listed as a chapter officer.

Chapter fresh off probation

Just two weeks after the alleged battery against Boehm and Yanz, members of the Sigma Nu fraternity chapter found themselves at odds with the law again.

Purdue University put the chapter on probation in January for holding a function Sept. 28 during which alcohol was made available to minors. After someone dialed 911 from the function, some participants tried to keep Purdue EMTs from entering the house to check on the person they'd been dispatched to assist, according to a university news release.

Fraternity members were required to write apology letters to the medics and participate in the "Adopt-a-Cop" program.

Jim Bush, communications and marketing specialist for the university, confirmed Friday that the single-semester probation ended in May.

Associate Dean of Students Jeffery Stefancic was unavailable for comment Friday.

August 29, 2014: Lafayette Journal and Courier

20-year-old armed robber gets 31-year sentence



Steven Porter, sporter@jconline.com

Ronald Longer cited an addiction to crack cocaine as the reason he robbed three Lafayette convenience stores at gunpoint last spring.

The 20-year-old was sentenced Friday to 31 years after pleading guilty in July to four felonies.

His parents, fiancée, brother, four cousins and two family friends were among supporters present when Tippecanoe Superior Court Judge Randy Williams announced the sentence.

His mother sobbed, but Deputy Prosecutor Emily Orsinger said a far worse fate than prison time could have befallen Longer.

One of the store clerks he robbed could have easily taken his life, she said, especially since the clerks had no way of knowing Longer's gun wasn't loaded.

Through tears, Longer apologized to the court, his family and the victims.

"I know what I did was wrong," he said, emphasizing that he's been trying to better himself each of the 162 days he's been in jail.

Longer asked for a sentence that would allow him to be present as his 11-month-old child grows up in Lafayette.

"This is where I want to raise my child at because this is a good place," he said.

Williams rejected the fatherhood argument.

"It makes it not such a good place when people do that," Williams said, referring to pointing a gun at innocent people.

He noted that Longer failed to prioritize the needs of his infant child in March when he smoked crack, then brandished his unloaded weapon.

Defense attorney Andrew Searle said his client was high on crack when he committed the first armed robbery but not for the second and third. Those robberies were committed, he said, to fund Longer's addiction.

"Cocaine is part of this," Searle said.

Orsinger, however, questioned the supposed addiction.

Longer doesn't exhibit certain hallmark symptoms of a true addict, she argued, citing a medical doctor's report and the fact that Longer didn't spend any of the money he stole in the first robbery to buy drugs.

"I point all of these out because I don't buy it," she said.

Noting that Longer has a previous felony firearm conviction, Williams ruled that the aggravating factors outweighed the mitigators, despite strong family support and the fact that Longer pleaded guilty.

Williams ordered Longer to serve 26 years executed with the Indiana Department of Correction, followed by five years suspended to probation.

He also ordered that restitution totaling \$681.50 be paid to the three victims: a Circle K, Village Pantry and BP/Amoco station.

Longer retains his right to appeal within 30 days.

Charges filed against Ronald Longer

1. Robbery while armed with a deadly weapon (Class B felony): 13 years
2. Theft (Class D felony): dismissed per plea agreement
3. Robbery (Class B felony): 13 years
4. Theft (Class D felony): dismissed per plea agreement
5. Robbery (Class B felony): 13 years, concurrent with Count 3
6. Theft (Class D felony): dismissed per plea agreement
7. Carrying a handgun without a license (Class A misdemeanor): dismissed per plea agreement
8. Carrying a handgun without a license with a prior felony conviction (Class C felony): 5 years

August 27, 2014: Lafayette Journal and Courier

Man charged with murder in Rick Couch's death

Ron Wilkins, rwilkins@jconline.com

On the same day that Rick Couch was laid to rest, his accused killer — 25-year-old James Michael Bixler — was charged with murder.

The probable cause affidavit indicated that Bixler was inside the North 16th Street house on Aug. 20 when a woman entered to check on Couch and Bixler after a night of drinking. She saw Couch's bloody body on the floor. Near the body, Bixler was asleep in a chair, according to the probable cause affidavit.

The woman woke Bixler and told him she was calling for help. He ran from the house, police said in the affidavit. Police found a bloody shirt near Couch's body and a fireplace shovel that appeared to have blood on it, according to the affidavit.

Neighbor Kevin Barrett said last week that a woman came to his house, claiming that there was something wrong with Couch, and asked him to call the police. Before he did, however, Barrett wanted to make sure Couch, who had a history of drinking, hadn't just passed out.

He said he took three steps into the house and saw Couch on the floor. Noticing Couch's wounds, Barrett said he left the house.

About two hours after police arrived, Bixler returned to the scene without a shirt. Two neighbors, including Barrett, already had identified Bixler as one of the people at the house the night before.

Bixler initially told police he left Couch's house and went to his father's house, but Bixler's father told police he had not seen his son since Tuesday afternoon, according to the affidavit.

The affidavit indicated that after his arrest, Bixler told police that Couch insisted he watch videos with him and grabbed Bixler by the hair. It was then that Bixler punched Couch several times, the affidavit states.

After the autopsy determined that Couch suffered a fractured sternum, several broken ribs and head injuries that caused a fatal brain injury, Bixler made more statements to police, according to the affidavit.

Bixler said the hand he used to hit Couch with was broken, and he probably used the fireplace shovel to strike Couch, according to the affidavit. Bixler said if evidence indicated that Couch had been kicked and stomped, he probably did that, too, according to the probable cause.

During an Aug. 21 interview, Bixler also said the bloody shirt found in the living room was his, according to the probable cause affidavit.

Bixler had been on probation for his Aug. 4 convictions of criminal mischief and criminal trespass, according to the affidavit.

If he's convicted of murder, Bixler could be sentenced to between 45 and 65 years in prison, according to Indiana sentencing laws.

August 27, 2014: Lafayette Journal and Courier

Jury convicts man of raping drunk friend



Steven Porter, sporter@jconline.com

A jury found Kustin Slaybaugh guilty Wednesday of raping a close friend last winter after the pair split a bottle of McCormick-brand vodka and smoked synthetic pot together.

Slaybaugh, 29, spoke voluntarily with Lafayette police shortly after an ambulance whisked his victim away to the hospital Jan. 16. He told Detective Cecil Johnson the sex had been consensual, but evidence presented in trial convinced the jury that the woman was incapable of offering her consent.

The woman Slaybaugh raped had a blood-alcohol concentration of 0.33 percent when she arrived at the hospital, Deputy Prosecutor Brian Johnson told the jury during opening arguments. That's more than quadruple the legal limit for driving.

Johnson said the victim's level of intoxication rendered her unaware of Slaybaugh's advances.

"That is the issue in this case," he said, "and the evidence is going to show that she was completely unconscious when it happened."

Slaybaugh, by contrast, was coherent enough to carry on an hourlong interview with police beginning less than two hours after he was caught naked with the woman in the garage of a Lafayette home where he was staying temporarily.

Defense attorney James Trueblood told the jury not to take the state's characterization of what happened for granted.

"You and you alone are going to decide what the evidence is," he said.

Trueblood wrapped his argument before noon Wednesday; the jury announced its guilty verdict at 1:45 p.m.

Sentencing for Slaybaugh, who faces six to 20 years, was scheduled for Sept. 25.

Slaybaugh and his victim — whom the Journal & Courier will not identify, as she is the victim of a sex crime — have known each other since early childhood.

August 27, 2014: WLFITV

Lafayette man convicted of raping woman who passed out on couch



LAFAYETTE, Ind. (WLF) — A jury found 29-year-old Kastin Slaybaugh of Lafayette guilty of rape.

Police were called to a home on Jan. 16 on Walton Street on the city's south side for a reported sexual assault of a woman who had passed out on a couch in the garage.

Slaybaugh was featured on News 18's Fugitive Search later that month, before being located in April.

Sentencing is set for Sept. 25.

He faces up to 20 years in prison.

Lafayette man charged for murder of Rick Couch

By Kyle Bloyd

TIPPECANOE COUNTY, Ind. (WLFI) — Formal charges have been filed against Lafayette resident James Bixler, 25, for the murder of Rick Couch

According to court documents, Bixler beat Couch on the evening of Aug. 19 following an argument. Lafayette detectives state that Bixler punched Couch repeatedly. An autopsy revealed that Couch died from brain injuries caused by multiple blunt force trauma. Couch also had a fractured sternum and broken ribs, which investigators say could be from kicking or stomping.

Couch's body was discovered on the morning of Aug. 20 by Kathleen Coughlin. Officers responded just after 9 a.m. Coughlin said she was with her boyfriend the night before, along with Couch, Bixler and a young child.

Coughlin claims to also have found Bixler asleep in a chair the morning she discovered Couch's body. Also found at the residence were a bloody fireplace shovel and a bloody shirt, which matched Coughlin's description of the shirt Bixler was wearing on Aug. 19. The young child was also at the residence. Coughlin also told detectives that drinking had been involved.

About two hours after officers arrived, officers say Bixler arrived at the scene, yelling loudly. He was accompanied by his girlfriend, the mother of the young child.

When speaking to officers on the scene, Bixler initially denied being seen by Coughlin, saying that he slept at his father's house and that the child was left with his girlfriend.

Bixler's father, Emmett Bixler, told police that Bixler had left on Tuesday afternoon and he didn't see his son again until 11 a.m. Wednesday morning. A pair of jeans were found at Emmett Bixler's house. Investigators say the jeans may have had blood on them.

A search of Bixler revealed blood on his chest and socks. He was then arrested. That evening, he admitted to lying during his earlier interview.

Bixler told detectives that he had a fight with Couch, saying Couch "snatched him up by his hair" after Bixler refused to watch videos with him. Bixler admitted to punching Couch several times. Bixler said he believed to have knocked Couch out. He told detectives that he cleaned some blood off of Couch and the floor.

Bixler did not directly claim to have used the fireplace shovel to beat Couch, but said that he probably did. Bixler was also not sure if he stomped or kicked Couch, but said that he probably did as well.

Bixler also claimed to have a broken hand.

Laf. man charged after having sex with 14-year-old he met online

LAFAYETTE, Ind. (WLFI) — A Lafayette man has been charged with two counts of sexual misconduct with a minor after investigators said he had sex with a 14-year-old girl.

According to court documents, Levi Ellars, 18, met the girl on a social media website in July. The girl gave Ellars her address and they later met outside of her dad's house in the middle of the night.

Both the victim and Ellars told investigators that they had sex in Ellars' girlfriend's car that night.

In an interview with investigators, the victim says she told Ellars that she was 14 but that her social media page stated that she was 18.

Court documents state that Ellars admitted to investigators that he was aware that the victim was in the eighth grade and wasn't 16 years old.

August 25, 2014: TCPSN

John Mathew Cochran, 33, of Lafayette, IN was sentence to 12 years for his guilty pleas to Burglary (C Fel), Robbery (C Fel) and Attempted Robbery (C Fel). Sentence breakdown: 10 years IDOC, 2 years Supervised Probation, the 1st year to include TCCC at LTBD as a condition of probation; IDOC Programs: mental health treatment and CLIFF Program.

August 25, 2014: TCPSN

Jeffrey Len Parr, 48, of Lafayette, IN was sentenced to 12 years IDOC today for his guilty pleas to Possession of a Narcotic Drug (B Fel), Operating a Motor Vehicle While Privileges are Forfeited for Life (C Fel), OWI Endangerment (A Misd) and HSO.

August 24, 2014: Lafayette Journal and Courier

Teen battered in jail cell

Steven Porter, sporter@jconline.com

Seventeen-year-old Nicholas Dettman was seriously injured inside his Tippecanoe County Jail cell in June, allegedly at the hands of a fellow inmate.

The boy sustained a broken jaw, which required surgery, court documents state.

His mouth was wired shut and remained so as of Friday.

Dettman, who's charged with burglarizing multiple homes with a juvenile accomplice around Columbian Park this spring, was waived into adult court in May to face 10 felony charges.

Citing the boy's criminal history, Tippecanoe Superior Court 3 Judge Faith Graham ordered that Dettman be tried and incarcerated as an adult, even though he won't turn 18 until September.

Just two weeks later, officers were called to Dettman's cell, where they saw blood on the floor and the boy's jaw beginning to swell, court documents state.

Dettman told the officers repeatedly that he'd been injured by falling from his bunk accidentally. When asked directly whether he'd been assaulted, however, the boy nodded in the affirmative, according to a probable cause affidavit.

Officers investigated the incident and reviewed surveillance video. Based on their findings, the prosecutor filed a Class C felony battery charge against Jevon Ollins, 24, who's also being held at the jail on burglary charges.

August 22, 2014: TCPSN

Jevon Deandre Ollins, 24, of Lafayette, IN was charged today with Battery Resulting in Serious Bodily Injury (C Fel) by the Tippecanoe County Prosecutor's office. These charges are from an assault that occurred in the Tippecanoe County Jail.

August 21, 2014: Lafayette Journal and Courier

Purdue shooter Cody Cousins pleads guilty to murder



Ron Wilkins, rwilkins@jconline.com

Cody Cousins admitted he is a murderer.

The 24-year-old former Purdue University student admitted Thursday that he entered the Electrical Engineering Building before noon Jan. 21 with a gun and a knife. Responding to Tippecanoe County Prosecutor Pat Harrington's questions, Cousins told the court he entered the basement classroom, shot 21-year-old Andrew Boldt and then stabbed him with the knife.

Cousins said it was his intent when he went to campus to kill Boldt, but nothing was discussed about Cousins' motive. It's not an element of the crime.

Special public defender Kirk Freeman said his client pleaded guilty without a plea agreement, reserving the right to raise mental health questions before Cousins is sentenced.

"The 'guilty but mentally ill' will be argued at the sentencing Sept. 19," Freeman said.

The hearing begins at 1:15 p.m., Harrington said.

At that time, state-appointed mental health experts who examined Cousins will testify about their findings, and Tippecanoe Superior 2 Judge Thomas Busch will have to weigh Cousins' insanity claims.

Cousins faces between 45 and 65 years in prison for killing Boldt. The guilty plea eliminates the chance he might be found not guilty by reason of insanity. In Indiana, a defendant who raises the issue of mental health must prove the person was unable to appreciate the wrongfulness of his actions at the time of the offense, according to a Journal & Courier story published June 1. Since Cousins admitted his guilt, all of the not guilty options are off the table.

If he is found mentally ill, he will receive mental health treatment during his time in prison, according to the June 1 story.

August 21, 2014: TCPSN

Adolfo Robles-Ronquillo, of West Lafayette, IN was sentenced today to 4 years IDOC for his guilty plea to Battery by Means of Deadly Weapon (C Fel). Robles-Ronquillo stated he is not a citizen of the US, is ineligible for TCCC, and there may be deportation consequences.

August 21, 2014: TCPSN

Marquis J Huckaby, 21, of Lafayette, IN was charged today with Carrying a Handgun Without a License (A Misd) and Carrying a Handgun While Having A Prior Felony Conviction (Level 5 Fel) by the Tippecanoe County Prosecutor's office.

August 21, 2014: Fox 59

Accused Purdue shooter Cody Cousins pleads guilty to murder



BY MATT ADAMS - WEB PRODUCER

TIPPECANOE COUNTY (Aug. 21, 2014) – Cody Cousins, the man accused of fatally stabbing and shooting Purdue student Andrew Boldt, pleaded guilty to murder in the case Thursday morning in a Tippecanoe County courtroom.

Boldt was killed on January 21 in the Electrical Engineering Building on campus.

“It was time to make a decision of what we wanted to do. My client wanted to plead guilty so he plead guilty,” Attorney Kirk Freeman said.

Cousins entered a preliminary plea of not guilty in January. He had asked for a change of venue and new representation. In May, Cousins’ attorney filed a notice that he planned to use an insanity defense. Two mental health evaluations had been ordered by the court.

Freeman said his client admitted in court today that he suffered from the bipolar disorder.

Cousins sentencing hearing is scheduled for Sept. 19.

“I think you are looking at a mitigated sentence. You have one prior misdemeanor. You have an acceptance of responsibility. You do have mental health issues. Perhaps they don’t rise to the level of insanity, but I believe they should be used as a mitigation,” Freeman said.

Tippecanoe Prosecutor Pat Harrington said Cousins could receive treatment for any mental illnesses, while he serves time behind bars. The judge will decide Cousins sentence, after he hears evidence presented by both sides.

“The sentencing will be obviously another important step of this case because that’s where, if the defense elects to put on evidence of mental illness- that’s when it’ll be put out there for the public to hear,” Harrington said.

Harrington said Cousins could be sentenced between 45 to 65 years for murder.

While Cousins admitted he murdered Boldt using a gun and knife, the motive behind the crime remains unclear.

"In the criminal court, we can never prove why. One person knows why they do things. All we have to do (going by) that date and time (is) did he knowingly, intentionally commit the crime of murder," Harrington said.

August 21, 2014: Lafayette Journal and Courier

Stabbing draws attempted murder charge

Steven Porter, sporter@jconline.com

Attempted murder was one of four felony charges filed Wednesday against Richard Burke, 55, whom Lafayette police officers say battered a woman in her apartment last week before stabbing himself in the chest.

Responding officers forcibly entered the residence after seeing Burke through a window with "an aggressive look on his face," pinning Sara Crutchfield down in a chair, court documents state.

Crutchfield, who was found blood-covered with "the blade of a pair of scissors sticking out of the side of her neck," said Burke told her he was trying to kill her, a probable cause affidavit states.

She was transported to St. Vincent Indianapolis Hospital with stab wounds to her neck, forearms and knee.

Burke, who stabbed himself in the chest with a large knife before officers could subdue him, underwent surgery at IU Health Arnett Hospital, Lt. Perry Amos said.

Burke, who was convicted of battery resulting in serious bodily injury in 2011, was charged Wednesday with attempted murder, a Level 1 felony; aggravated battery, a Level 3 felony; battery with a deadly weapon, a Level 5 felony; and battery resulting in serious bodily injury, a Level 5 felony.

August 21, 2014: WTHR

Cody Cousins pleads guilty in fatal Purdue campus attack

By Mary Milz, WTHR Citybeat reporter

LAFAYETTE, Ind. -The man charged with killing a Purdue University classmate earlier this year has pleaded guilty to the crime.

Cody Cousins admitted in a Tippecanoe County Courtroom that he shot and stabbed Andrew Boldt in front of a classroom full of students last January.

Cousins earlier pleaded not guilty to the crime, and his attorneys said they would use an insanity defense at his trial.

Sentencing will happen sometime next month. Cousins faces anywhere from 45 to 65 years in prison. His plea comes six weeks before his trial was due to begin.

The trial would have likely called dozens of student witnesses, and many sounded relieved by the plea.

"It would have been a lot to hear about a trial all the time. It would have been kind of something in the back of everyone's head. It's kind of a relief. Put him away for good, I guess," said Jake Bounder, Purdue student.

"I think it's good that he pleaded guilty because there were so many witnesses. I think it really saved trouble for the people who were traumatized and his family as well, because having to go through that and having to drag it out longer," said Paula Iglesias, Purdue student.

Cousins' attorney says that his client told the court he went to the electrical engineering building intending to kill Boldt, shooting and stabbing him in front of a class.

"Mr. Cousins was fully coherent, knew what was going on, and it was his own free act that was completely voluntary and intelligent and knowingly, he pled guilty. We did what my client wanted to do," said Kirk Freeman, defense attorney.

Cousins did not offer a motive, but the plea of guilty but mentally ill will be an issue during sentencing next month. That means Cousins would be entitled to counseling and mental health treatment, but his sentencing would not be less than 45 years.

Cousins' defense attorney had said in May he would pursue an insanity defense. Tippecanoe Superior Court bailiff Brenda Rody says the judge will decide the issue of Cousins' mental state during a sentencing hearing set for Sept. 19.

Cousins and Boldt were both electrical engineering students at the time.

August 21, 2014: WLFITV

Cody Cousins pleads guilty

By Alexandra Kruczek

TIPPECANOE COUNTY, Ind. (WLFI) — Thursday in a Tippecanoe County courtroom, Cody Cousins pleaded guilty to the murder of 21-year-old Purdue student Andrew Boldt.

Cousins had to answer a series of questions after deciding to plead guilty. When asked if he went to Purdue's campus Jan. 21 to find and kill Boldt, he responded "yes."

Cousins also said he did shoot and stab Boldt. He said he had been evaluated for mental illness and was diagnosed with bipolar disorder. His attorney, Kirk Freeman, could not comment on when that evaluation took place.

However, Cousins did not say why he wanted to and did kill Boldt, and we may never know why.

Cousins had originally entered a preliminary plea of not guilty in January. After wanting new counsel and a change of venue, Cousins' attorney filed a notice to use an insanity defense in May.

The sentencing for Cousins has been scheduled for Sept. 19. At that time, a judgement of guilty but mentally ill may be determined after hearing testimony from both sides. That could include anyone whose name was on the witness list for Cousins' trial, which includes at least eight mental health experts.

Under the murder charge Cousins could face anywhere between 45 and 65 years behind bars. Before Thursday's guilty plea, the trial had been set for October. No plea deal has been offered.

Before leaving the courthouse Thursday, Cousins' mother stopped our crew. She told them to write down one word and look up the meaning. That word was "Anosognosia." It means "lack of insight" or "lack of awareness" that a person has a disease.

Anosognosia is believed to be one of the reasons why people with schizophrenia or bipolar disorder do not take their medications. We do not know how or if this information will be used at the sentencing next month.

August 20, 2014: WLFITV

Homeless man charged in Lafayette stabbing

TIPPECANOE COUNTY, Ind. (WLFI) — A homeless man now faces multiple felonies, including attempted murder, after a stabbing earlier this month in Lafayette.

Richard Burke, 55, has also been charged with aggravated battery, battery committed by means of a deadly weapon, and battery resulting in serious bodily injury.

Prosecutors said police arrived at an apartment on Main Street and found a woman with the blade from a pair of scissors sticking out of her neck. Officers said the woman had blood all over her arms and face.

According to court documents, officers identified Burke who admitted stabbing the woman saying he intended to kill her.

August 20, 2014: TCPSN

Dale Duane England, 47, of Lafayette, IN was sentenced today to 15 years IDOC for his guilty pleas to Dealing in Methamphetamine (B Fel) and Possession of a Narcotic Drug (B Fel).

August 20, 2014: TCPSN

Richard T. Dockery, 26, of Lafayette, IN was charged today with Dealing in Cocaine (Level 3 Fel), Possession of Cocaine (Level 5 Fel), and Carrying a Handgun Without a License (A Misd) by the Tippecanoe County Prosecutor's office.

August 18, 2014: Lafayette Journal and Courier

Lafayette man sentenced for child exploitation



Steven Porter, sporter@jconline.com

Anthony Bryant, 43, of Lafayette was sentenced Monday to a year in prison and three years of probation after admitting last month that he sought out child pornography online via a peer-to-peer file sharing network.

Bryant was arrested in December after Lafayette police traced two suspect files to an IP address registered at his home in the 4100 block of Lofton Drive.

His defense attorney, Thomas O'Brien, said Bryant accepted responsibility for his actions by agreeing to the terms of a plea deal, which resulted in two additional felony charges being dismissed.

Deputy Prosecutor Emily Orsinger, on the other hand, disagreed. She pointed to Bryant's statements relayed in court documents, arguing that Bryant exhibited sorrow for getting caught, not remorse for the crime committed.

Tippecanoe Superior Court 1 Judge Randy Williams said he, too, highlighted statements made by Bryant in a pre-sentence investigation report. He read some of Bryant's words during Monday's hearing.

" 'I feel bad for what has happened to me,' " Williams read with a baffled tone before describing the graphic nature of the pornographic material in Bryant's possession.

It depicted an adult male violating a child, bound at the ankles, believed to be just 3 or 4 years old.

"There are victims to these crimes," Williams said.

The aggravating factors he identified included the fact that Bryant's victim was younger than 12 years old.

Mitigating factors he noted include the fact that Bryant pleaded guilty, has support from family members and is pursuing additional education.

Bryant was ordered to register as a sex offender for 10 years and participate in a treatment program for adult sex offenders.

August 14, 2014: Lafayette Journal and Courier

Child molester sentenced to 80 years

Steven Porter, sporter@jconline.com

Convicted child molester Richard Gill was sentenced Thursday to 80 years in prison.

The 41-year-old Lafayette man will be at least 95 before he finishes serving the penalty for sex acts he performed over the course of seven years on a young girl entrusted to his care.

Defense attorney Andrew Searle recommended that his client be given a lesser sentence, noting that Gill's criminal history is "not the worst of the worst."

Strong support from Gill's relatives should be seen as a mitigating factor in the case, Searle added.

"His family has not abandoned him, despite what these charges are, and they're here today," he told Tippecanoe Superior Court 1 Judge Randy Williams during Thursday's sentencing hearing.

Gill's oldest brother, Jeffrey Gill, testified during the sentencing hearing. He noted that family get-togethers were held regularly at his brother's house.

Jeffrey Gill said his brother was a good student in high school, where he participated in special education classes until his senior year, when he dropped out.

"He had a hard time," Jeffrey Gill said.

Searle concluded his recommendation by asking Williams how long the state wishes to pay for Richard Gill to sit in prison.

Deputy Prosecutor Matthew Lasher argued that a longer sentence would be more appropriate, especially since probation and short-term incarceration for Gill have proven ineffective.

Lasher said the repetitive nature of Gill's offenses and the fact that they began before the victim turned 12 should be considered aggravating factors.

"The state cannot find any mitigating circumstances in this case," he said.

Lasher recommended a sentence that would include seven years of probation, but Williams disagreed.

"It just doesn't make any sense to me to do that," Williams said.

Instead, he issued a fully executed sentence of 80 years, citing the "horrendous nature of the offense."

Gill's family support was the only mitigating factor identified by the judge.

Since a defendant has every right to take a case to trial, as Gill did, the fact that he didn't plead guilty shouldn't be counted against him in sentencing, Williams said.

"I do not find the lack of remorse as an aggravating factor," he said.

The lifelong ramifications for Gill's victim are unfathomable, Williams said, noting that other children who witnessed some of the offenses will likewise continue to suffer.

Sentencing breakdown

A jury convicted Gill of 10 felony sex crimes. For three of them — criminal deviate conduct, a Class A felony, and two Class C felony counts of child molesting — Williams issued a 40-year concurrent sentence.

Because his victim had yet to turn 12 when the most serious offense was committed, Gill was named a credit time-restricted felon, meaning he will serve more than 34 years of that 40-year sentence.

He was sentenced to 30 years for five counts of child molesting, plus 10 years for two counts of sexual misconduct with a minor. With good behavior, he could serve half that time, for a total of a little more than 54 years.

Gill said he plans to appeal.

Charges against Richard Gill

Child molesting, Class A felony: 40 years (credit time restricted)

Child molesting, Class A felony: 30 years

Attempted child molesting, Class A felony: NOT GUILTY

Child molesting, Class A felony: 30 years (concurrent with Count 2)

Sexual misconduct with a minor, Class B felony: 10 years

Child molesting, Class C felony: 8 years (concurrent with Count 1)

Child molesting, Class C felony: 8 years (concurrent with Count 1)

Sexual misconduct with a minor, Class C felony: 4 years (concurrent with Count 5)

Child molesting, Class C felony: 4 years (concurrent with Count 2)

Child molesting, Class C felony: 4 years (concurrent with Count 2)

Child molesting, Class C felony: 4 years (concurrent with Count 2)

Sexual misconduct with a minor, Class C felony: NOT GUILTY

Total: 80 years executed (54.3 years with good time credit)

3 men charged in Aug. 8 Circle K robbery

Ron Wilkins, rwilkins@jconline.com

The trio accused of the Aug. 8 robbery at the Circle K gas station/convenience store went from suspects to defendants Thursday after formal charges were filed.

Charles Darryl Jenkins Jr., 21, of Gary; Tyler Qualice Chandler, 21, of Gary, and Andre Lavon Brown, 22, of East Chicago, face charges of conspiracy to commit robbery and robbery, Level 3 felonies, and two counts of theft, Class A misdemeanors.

Jenkins and Brown are accused of robbing the store, taking money, cigarettes and the attendant's cellphone about 3:20 a.m. Aug. 8, according to a probable cause affidavit filed Thursday with the charges. About an hour before the robbery, police say that Chandler went into the store to scope out the scene.

The handgun used in the robbery had an unusually long barrel, and an owner of a local gun shop told West Lafayette police that four men tried to sell a handgun matching the description of the gun used in the Circle K robbery, according to the probable cause affidavit.

The shop owner did not buy the handgun, and he reported that two of the men who were in the store on Aug. 6 returned on Aug. 8. He identified one of them as Chandler, according to the affidavit.

Police said Wednesday that they have not recovered the gun.

Brown and Chandler also are suspects in the Aug. 9 robbery at the Village Pantry at Sixth and Union streets, but formal charges have not been filed.

August 14, 2014: WLFITV

Three men face charges in WL Circle K robbery

WEST LAFAYETTE, Ind. (WLFI) – Three men face criminal charges for robbing a West Lafayette gas station last week.

Andre Brown, of East Chicago, and Tyler Chandler and Charles Jenkins Jr., both of Gary, each face four charges.

According to court documents, two of the men went into the Circle K on Yeager Road and Sagamore Parkway wearing bandannas early Friday morning. One had a handgun. They got away with the money from the cash register, cigarettes and the clerk's cell phone.

The next day, investigators got Chandler's name and address in the Richfield Apartment complex from a gun store in Lafayette.

Investigators were able to stop a car with all three men as well as the woman they were staying with at the complex. They later found the stolen phone and clothing worn during the robbery inside the apartment.

Officers said Chandler admitted that Brown and Jenkins committed the robbery and he went about 45 minutes earlier to see how much cash was in the drawer.

August 14, 2014: WLFITV

Lafayette man received his sentence in child molesting case



By Alexandra Kruczek

TIPPECANOE COUNTY, Ind. (WLFITV) — A Lafayette man received his sentence Thursday morning in a Tippecanoe County courtroom after he was found guilty last month of child molesting and sexual misconduct.

Richard Gill, 41, was sentenced to 80 years in the Department of Corrections, all executed. Gill said in court Thursday, he plans on appealing the sentence.

Gill was found guilty last month of eight counts of child molesting and two counts of sexual misconduct. Detectives said Gill was molesting a young girl over the course of four years. In June, the jury deliberated more than three hours before reaching a verdict.

August 13, 2014: WLFITV

Witness list gets longer in Cousins case

TIPPECANOE COUNTY, Ind. (WLFITV) — The witness list in the case against Cody Cousins continues to grow.

Fifteen people, including seven doctors, have been added to the list by the state's deputy prosecuting attorney. In addition to the potential witnesses previously identified, the state may call any of these witnesses from the list below.

Kevin Otto
Jan Allebach
Dawn Parsell
Dawn Powers
Tim Pycraft
Dennis Banter
Judy Clegert
Dr. David Darr
Dr. Jay Fawver
Dr. Ghazanafar Kahn
Melissa Johnson
Dr. Balazs Hatvani
Steven Hines, Psy.D.
Jessica Manning, Ph.D.
Dr. John Thompson

New filings in the case also reveal that the state may also use inmate records from the Tippecanoe County Jail as well as Cousins' banking and medical records.

Cousins is accused of killing Purdue student Andrew Boldt in January.

Cousins is scheduled to stand trial on Oct. 6.

Lafayette man sentenced to life behind bars



TIPPECANOE COUNTY, Ind. (WLFITV) — A Lafayette man is sentenced to life behind bars after he is convicted of rape, strangulation and resisting law enforcement.

Lafayette police were called to a home on Southhaven Boulevard back in January after a woman said she was beaten and raped by 27-year-old James Miske Jr. while her children were in the home.

Prosecutors said the woman told police Miske said several times that he'd "kill her."

According to court documents, Miske would not cooperate with police and started fighting the officers. Police then used a stun gun on Miske.

A Tippecanoe County jury found him guilty last month. He was sentenced to 145 years in the Department of Corrections.

July 31, 2014: Lafayette Journal and Courier

Purses allegedly snatched to aid drug habits

Steven Porter, sporter@jconline.com

Monticello residents Rachel Hickman and Lindsey Hogg allegedly snatched eight purses since May from inattentive Lafayette shoppers.

Hogg, 22, told detectives she and Hickman, 24, carried out the thefts to support their gram-a-day heroin habit, court documents state.

The eight purses they're accused of stealing contained more than \$1,200 cash, according to a probable cause affidavit provided by the Tippecanoe County Prosecutor's Office.

Hogg said one might look at her victims and think she targeted elderly women; in reality, she told police, victims were targeted because they weren't keeping close watch of their belongings, the affidavit states.

The thefts took place at two Wal-Mart locations, two Pay Less grocery stores and a Meijer in Lafayette.

The women each face seven Class A misdemeanor theft charges, one Class D felony theft charge and one Level 5 felony charge of corrupt business influence.

Class A misdemeanors are punishable by up to a year in jail. Class D felonies are punishable by six months to three years, and Level 5 felonies — which were introduced July 1 with the change in Indiana's criminal code — are punishable by one to six years.

Purses Snatched

May 18 — Walmart, Commerce Drive

July 8 — Meijer, Lafayette

July 20 — Payless, Beck Lane

July 22 — Payless, Maple Point Drive

July 22 — Payless, Beck Lane

July 22 — Walmart, Commerce Drive

July 23 — Walmart, Veterans Memorial Parkway

July 23 — Payless, Maple Point Drive

July 31, 2014: Lafayette Journal and Courier

Baby girl homicide investigation concludes

Steven Porter, sporter@jconline.com

Detectives investigating the death of 14-month-old Skylar Foster on Thursday sent their findings to the prosecutor for review, Lafayette police Sgt. Brian Gossard said.

Tippecanoe County Prosecutor Pat Harrington confirmed that his office received the documents.

"We will review the reports and continue working with the detectives if additional information is needed," he said in an email.

The baby girl's manner of death was ruled a homicide by the Marion County Coroner's Office.

The term "homicide" is defined by Indiana law as the killing of one human by another. It may refer to a criminal act or an act that is justifiable or excusable in the eyes of the law, depending on the circumstances, according to a legal guide for coroners distributed by the state.

Gossard said investigators sought to touch base with everyone who had contact with the child in the week leading up to her death. He declined to disclose whether detectives have identified anyone of interest in the case.

July 31, 2014: WLFITV

Suspect: Heroin addiction prompted purse snatchings

By Samantha Thieke

TIPPECANOE COUNTY, Ind. (WLFI) — One of the two women charged in a series of purse snatchings in Lafayette said a heroin addiction prompted the thefts.

Charges were filed against Lindsey Hogg and Rachel Hickman. The two Monticello women face eight charges of theft and one charge of corrupt business influence in Tippecanoe County.

According to court documents, 22-year-old Lindsey Hogg and 24-year-old Rachel Hickman stole eight purses at five different retail stores in Lafayette. Those stores include Walmarts on State Road 26 and Veterans Memorial Parkway, Pay Less grocery stores off State Road 38 and Beck Lane, and Meijer on State Road 26.

Prosecutors said the women got away with the contents of the purses, which included more than \$1,200 in cash.

Documents revealed Hogg would go into the stores and take the purses while people were not paying attention. Hickman would drive her to the stores.

Hogg told investigators that she and Hickman worked together, so they could use the cash to buy heroin.

According to online court records, Hogg has been charged with six counts of theft in White County.

Monticello Police Chief Randy Soliday said his department responded to reports of purse thefts at Walmart and Rural King.

July 31, 2014: TCPSN

Rachel Diana Hickman, 24, and Lindsey Renee Hogg, 22, of Monticello, IN have been charged with following by the Tippecanoe County Prosecutor's office:

Count I: Corrupt Business Influence (Level 5 Felony)

Count II: Theft (D Fel)

Count III: Theft (A Misd)

Count IV: Theft (A Misd)

Count V: Theft (A Misd)

Count VI: Theft (A Misd)

Count VII: Theft (A Misd)

Count VIII: Theft (A Misd)

Count IX: Theft (A Misd)

July 30, 2014: TCPSN

Daniel Lee Reid, 28, of Lafayette, IN was charged today with Burglary (Level 4 fel), and Theft (A misd) by the Tippecanoe County Prosecutor's office.

July 29, 2014: TCPSN

Clarence Coats, Jr, 19, of Lafayette, IN has been charged with two (2) counts of Forgery (C fel), two (2) counts of Forgery (Level 6 felony), Receiving Stolen Property (D fel), Theft (A misd), and Attempted Theft (A misd) by the Tippecanoe County Prosecutor's office.

July 29, 2014: TCPSN

Dominic S Brogan, 44, of Indianapolis, IN has been charged with Dealing in Cocaine within 1,000 feet of Miller Elementary School, Vantage Apartments (A fel), and Possession of Cocaine within 1,000 feet of Miller Elementary School, Vantage Apartments (B fel) by the Tippecanoe County Prosecutor's office.

July 28, 2014: TCPSN

Charles Edward Tyner, III, 32, was charged today with Criminal Confinement Resulting in Bodily Injury (Level 5 Felony), and Domestic Battery (A Misd) by the Tippecanoe County Prosecutor's office.

July 24, 2014: TCPSN

Anthony David Owen, 41, and Glen A. Schmick, 57, both of Lafayette, IN were charged today by the Tippecanoe County Prosecutor's office with the following drug felonies:

Count I: Dealing in a Narcotic Drug within 500 feet of Columbian Park – Heroin (Level 4 Felony)

Count II: Dealing in Cocaine within 500 feet of Columbian Park (Level 4 Felony)

Count III: Dealing in a Narcotic Drug – Heroin (Level 4 Felony)

July 23, 2014: TCPSN

Clifton Milton Wilkins, Jr, 51, of Chicago, IL was sentenced today to 6 years for Child Molesting (C fel) in Tippecanoe County. Sentence breakdown: IDOC 28 mos.; Probation: 44 mos., first 24 mos. on TCCC as a condition of probation - Terms of Probation: waive 4th Amendment Rights.; no contact with the victim; PD fee \$100; Child Abuse Prevention fee \$100; Sexual Assault Victim's Assistance fee \$500; Hope & Recovery Sexual Offender Treatment Program at Families United. This case was investigated by the Lafayette Police Department and the Tippecanoe County Prosecutor's office.

July 19, 2014: Indianapolis Star

Ex-pastor gets 4 years in prison for church bathroom videos



Steven Porter

Former pastor Robert Lyzenga, who admitted in May to hiding two video cameras inside a women's restroom at a Lafayette church, was sentenced Friday to four years in prison followed by three years of probation.

Lyzenga, 58, pleaded guilty to allegations he surreptitiously recorded five women and five girls over the course of several months in 2011 and 2012.

One of Lyzenga's parishioners discovered the cameras, which were disguised as air fresheners in the women's bathroom just off the sanctuary at Sunrise Christian Reformed Church.

Investigators downloaded video footage from the devices and located files on Lyzenga's computers. They determined that the pastor had not only viewed the videos but also edited some of the footage, according to a sentencing summary released by Tippecanoe County Prosecutor Pat Harrington.

Video of a 16-year-old girl had been edited to include "slow-motion replays showing her exposed pubic area," the document states.

Lyzenga also possessed still images derived from the footage.

Detectives noted that the cameras were repositioned multiple times. One video was captured by a camera outside the restroom stalls; another was recorded from the ceiling, looking down into the stalls.

Lyzenga said when he pleaded guilty that he'd never intended to record children. Learning that young girls had found their way in front of his predatory lens didn't stop him, though, from continuing to download and review the footage.

His youngest victim was 5 years old.

He repositioned the cameras more times than he could recall, all the while continuing to lead a congregation of about 200 people, until he was caught in April 2012.

Lyzenga's fall from grace hurled the congregation into tumult, and about a tenth of the church's regular attendees left.

Considering the pastor's position of trust, the young age of the victims and repetitive nature of the offenses, Judge Randy Williams of Tippecanoe Superior Court 1 determined that the aggravating factors in Lyzenga's case outweighed the mitigating factors, even though the defendant pleaded guilty and had no criminal history.

Williams could have sentenced Lyzenga to a maximum of 10 years and minimum of two years. He settled on a seven-year sentence.

Lyzenga was also ordered to have no contact with any of the 10 victims. He was ordered to pay a number of fines and abide by special probation conditions for adult sex offenders.

July 18, 2014: TCPSN

Brandon Earl Thomas, 20, of Markham, IL was charged today with Carrying a Handgun Without a License (Level 5 fel), Obliterating Identification Markings on Handgun (Level 5 fel), and Interference With The Reporting of a Crime (A misd) by the Tippecanoe County Prosecutor's office.

July 18, 2014: Lafayette Journal and Courier

Child molester faces up to 170 years in prison



Steven Porter, sporter@jconline.com

A jury found Richard Gill, 41, of Lafayette guilty this week of sexually abusing a young girl over the course of several years.

The victim, now 15, told investigators that Gill had forced himself on her and committed criminal deviate conduct on multiple occasions since she was 10 years old.

Based on testimony and evidence that included medical records and video from the defendant's house, the jury found Gill guilty on three counts of child molesting, a Class A felony; one count of sexual misconduct with a minor, a

Class B felony; five counts of child molesting, a Class C felony; and one count of sexual misconduct with a minor, a Class C felony.

The jury found Gill not guilty on two additional charges: attempted child molestation, a Class A felony; and sexual misconduct with a minor, a Class C felony.

Gill's criminal history includes four misdemeanor offenses in the late 1990s and one Class D felony theft conviction in 2001, according to the Tippecanoe County Prosecutor's Office.

A sentencing hearing has been scheduled for Aug. 14. He faces 20 to 170 years in prison.

July 18, 2014: WLFI TV

Man found guilty of 10 charges in child molestation case

By Holly Campbell

LAFAYETTE, Ind. (WLFI) – A Lafayette man has been found guilty of eight counts of child molesting and two counts of sexual misconduct.

Richard Gill, 41, faced 12 charges total for molesting a young girl over the course of four years. The jury deliberated for more than three hours before coming up with a verdict.

Gill could be sentenced to 20 to 170 years behind bars.

July 15, 2014: WLFITV

Lafayette man charged for putting knife to ex's throat

TIPPECANOE COUNTY, Ind. (WLFI) — A Lafayette man is charged for putting a knife to his ex-girlfriend's throat and demanding prescription medication.

According to court documents, 36-year-old Ian Ferguson approached his ex-girlfriend after she arrived home from the pharmacy despite having a protective order against him.

The woman ran indoors and Ferguson forced his way inside, pushed her up against a wall, and held a knife to her throat. He demanded she give him her purse and medications.

The woman's daughter then yelled at Ferguson and he ran off. Police later found him in a nearby alley.

Ferguson faces three felony charges including attempted robbery and intimidation.

July 14, 2014: TCPSN

Cody Ryan Gipson, 26, of Lafayette, IN was charged today with Conspiracy to Commit Burglary (Level 4 Felony), Burglary (Level 4 Felony), Residential Entry (Level 6 Felony), and Theft (A Misd) by the Tippecanoe County Prosecutor's office.

July 14, 2014: TCPSN

James Adam Mars, 27, of Lafayette, IN was charged today with Conspiracy to Commit Burglary (Level 4 Felony), Burglary (Level 4 Felony), Residential Entry (Level 6 Felony), and Theft (A Misd) by the Tippecanoe County Prosecutor's office.

July 10, 2014: TCPSN

James Miske, Jr, 28, of Lafayette, IN was found guilty on all counts today by a Tippecanoe County jury after deliberating 2.5 hours:

Count 1: Rape Deadly Force (A Fel)

Count 2: Criminal Deviate Conduct Deadly Force (A Fel)

Count 3: Criminal Deviate Conduct Deadly Force (A Fel)

Count 4: Confinement Bodily Injury (C Fel)

Count 5: Intimidation (D Fel)

Count 6: Strangulation (D Fel)

Count 7: Domestic Battery w/ Child (D Fel)

Count 8: Battery (A Misd)

Count 9: Resisting Law Enforcement (A Misd)

July 8, 2014: Lafayette Journal and Courier

Toddlers wander to liquor store; mom charged

Steven Porter, sporter@jconline.com

Authorities say three young children got too much liberty on Independence Day.

Jonnisha Jones, 20, allegedly left three kids — ages 1, 2 and 3 — unattended in her apartment in the 1500 block of South Street for 2½ hours, when two of them wandered into the parking lot of a liquor store more than a block away.

Police were called to the Bar Barry liquor store at 16th and Main streets, where strangers discovered the two older children without an adult, according to a probable cause affidavit. The 1-year-old was found asleep in Jones' empty residence.

Officers stayed at the home about 45 minutes before Jones returned.

Jones reportedly told officers she'd left the children for no more than 15 minutes to purchase diapers. Court documents state, however, that Jones couldn't produce the diapers she'd supposedly gone to purchase from Dollar General, which had closed more than two hours before she returned home.

A neighbor told police that Jones had been gone from 8:45 p.m. until 11:15 p.m.

Jones was charged Tuesday with neglect of a dependent, a Level 6 felony, punishable by six to 30 months incarceration.

Two of the children were hers. The third was her roommate's child.

July 8, 2014: Lafayette Journal and Courier

Thefts from county began before 2011

Ron Wilkins, rwilkins@jconline.com

File boxes, one stacked on top of the other, fill a corner of Tippecanoe County Clerk Christa Coffey's office, waiting for examination to determine the depth of the thievery.

Coffey's only comment about the investigation that started six weeks ago is that the theft of money from the clerk's office predates the time she took office in 2011.

The theft was discovered June 3 as employees tallied receipts from June 2 and the drawers didn't balance, Coffey said last month. The employee suspected of stealing the money over several years normally tallied the receipts. But she was off June 3, when the missing cash was discovered.

When that employee returned to work on June 4, Coffey fired her. The investigation by Indiana State Police and the State Board of Accounts continues, Coffey said Thursday.

Indiana State Police Detective Greg Edwards said police are waiting for the State Board of Accounts to audit the books from the clerk's office. Then police will begin to build their case against the former employee who is suspected of siphoning off the cash.

Edwards, who refused to make any detailed comments on the investigation, said it is a slow process, and he has no idea when his investigation might be completed and ready for a prosecutor to review.

Tippecanoe County Prosecutor Pat Harrington said last month that, generally speaking, cases involving county employees are handled by a special prosecutor from another county.

June 30, 2014: Lafayette Journal and Courier

4 death threats from cop killers' sympathizer

Steven Porter, sporter@jconline.com

Samuel Bradbury, 22, of Pine Village is in custody after he allegedly threatened to kill local police and "blow the Tippecanoe County Courthouse to pieces," court documents state.

Acting on a tip from a concerned citizen, police reviewed statements Bradbury posted to Facebook, which included death threats against a Tippecanoe County judge, an Indiana Supreme Court justice and two Tippecanoe County law enforcement officers, a probable cause affidavit states.

Investigators noted that Bradbury claimed affiliation with Las Vegas cop killers Jerad and Amanda Miller, whom he said were part of a group called "765 Anarchists."

Bradbury claimed to lead that group and said it has been forming for years for the purpose of killing local law enforcement officers, court documents state. Some of his posts described in the affidavit include references to gathering thermite and explosives and the possibility of a suicide bombing.

On June 8, Miller and his wife, Amanda, who had moved to Las Vegas from Lafayette in January, shot and killed two police officers. They went next to a Wal-Mart, where Amanda Miller killed a shopper who confronted her husband before police arrived. Police fatally wounded Jerad Miller; Amanda Miller killed herself.

In a rambling video posted to YouTube, Jerad Miller described the Tippecanoe County Courthouse as "a beautiful building" but "a monument to authoritarianism," casting himself as a freedom fighter against tyranny.

Bradbury's activity on Facebook reflects a similar perspective. He liked pages called, "No Tears for Dead Cops," "I HATE COPS!" and "Illuminati Exposed (This is the resistance)."

In another similarity to Jerad Miller, court records indicate that Bradbury has an adult criminal history that includes a marijuana conviction.

Police executed search warrants at residences frequented by Bradbury and found chemicals that preliminary testing indicates are components of incendiary devices, the affidavit states.

He was booked June 21 at Tippecanoe County Jail, where he remained Friday. His bond is set at \$100,000 cash.

Locally, he faces four Class C felony intimidation charges, one for each of the officials he allegedly threatened by name. They are identified in court documents by their initials.

Tippecanoe County Prosecutor Pat Harrington said Friday that he can't release any information other than what is in the affidavit.

Bob Ramsey, supervisory special agent for FBI's Merrillville office, said Bradbury also faces federal charges, which are sealed.

More information about those charges may be available, he said, after an initial hearing scheduled for Monday in U.S. District Court Northern District of Indiana in Hammond.

June 28, 2014: San Francisco Chronicle

Rising heroin use challenges police, hospitals

LAFAYETTE, Ind. (AP) — An increase in the availability of cheap heroin is driving up its use in Indiana, forcing police officers to adapt their approaches and sending more overdose cases to emergency rooms.

The number of heroin cases has risen dramatically since 2007, and law enforcement officials fear the drug's low cost — about \$10 on the street for a tenth of a gram — could make that trend continue.

"You're just as likely to run into heroin on a traffic stop tonight as you would be cocaine, probably even more so," said West Lafayette police Lt. Troy Harris, who runs the city's narcotics unit.

Marc Estes, chief of emergency medicine at IU Health Arnett Hospital, told the Journal & Courier (<http://on.jconline.com/1iKsDOi>) his emergency room seldom saw heroin overdoses three years ago. Now, it handles one or two a week.

The hospital also sees patients with skin abscesses and skin infections as a result of heroin use, he said.

Authorities looking for ways to curb the rising use of heroin are changing their approaches to identify trends and try to stop the drug's spread. Harris said police in West Lafayette have been able to get a handle on drug activity by getting information directly from addicts.

Some police departments, including Indianapolis and Portage, are equipping officers with a drug used to counteract the effects of an opioid overdose. Legislation signed by Gov. Mike Pence in March allows trained police, firefighters and other first responders to deliver naloxone or similar drugs to treat overdoses.

But drug dealers are adapting too and are using their own surveillance tactics to keep watch for the officers trying to track them down, Tippecanoe County Prosecutor Pat Harrington said.

"As they change their methods, we have to constantly change our methods," he said.

Harrington said 33 heroin cases were filed in Tippecanoe County courts in 2013. There have been 10 so far this year.

"The statistics are not a reflection of how serious and how freely heroin is flowing in Tippecanoe County," he said. "If we had double the number of drug task force members, I would anticipate that our numbers would double as far as arrests and prosecutions."

Law enforcement leaders say that drug cases don't just affect police or users and dealers.

"It's not just something that affects them," said Lafayette police Chief Patrick Flannelly. "It affects the whole community."

June 27, 2014: Lafayette Journal and Courier

Mother charged; 7-week-old badly burned

Lucas Schmidt, lschmidt@jconline.com

Kristin Wesley, 25, of Lafayette has been charged in Tippecanoe Superior Court 2 with one count of neglect of a dependent, a Class B felony, after her 7-week-old son allegedly suffered second-degree burns on 20 percent of his body.

According to a probable cause affidavit, officers were called to the residence of Kimberlie Youngblood on North 23rd St. on June 20th after receiving complaints of an intoxicated female and a burned infant. Youngblood is Wesley's mother.

An officer at the scene saw an infant in a crib, crying hard, whose skin was peeling, apparently from some type of burn.

EMT's arrived and took the infant to Riley Hospital for Children in Indianapolis. The child has since undergone surgery for skin grafts, according to the affidavit.

June 26, 2014: WLFITV

Man sentenced after burglaries at two businesses



TIPPECANOE COUNTY, Ind. (WLFITV) – A Colfax man is sentenced to prison time and probation after pleading guilty to burglary.

Prosecutors said last March, Shey Parke, 22, did more than \$6,000 in damage when he, and Dwayne Trippett of Crawfordsville, broke into Crop Production Service facilities in Clark's Hill and Odell over the course of a few days.

Parke and Trippett were arrested at CPS in Clark's Hill where investigators found CPS equipment and cash in their truck.

Parke was sentenced to four years in prison and a year of probation after pleading guilty to two counts of burglary last month.

June 26, 2014: Lafayette Journal and Courier

6-month sentence for child porn possession



Steven Porter, sporter@jconline.com

Joel Lebo, 36, of Lafayette was sentenced Monday to six months in jail and a year of probation for three Class D felony counts of possessing child pornography.

Lebo, who pleaded guilty, will undergo sex offender treatment, spend 40 hours on community service and 40 hours on a road crew, and was ordered to register as a sex offender for 10 years.

Lafayette Police Department detectives determined that Lebo had used a file-sharing network to download a pornographic video depicting a prepubescent girl, according to a sentencing summary. Investigators confirmed that the IP address matched the one at Lebo's residence, and during a search in October 2012, 742 images and 148 child porn-related videos were found.

Three additional counts were dismissed, per the terms of a plea agreement.

June 25, 2014: WLFITV

Lafayette gang member sentenced



TIPPECANOE COUNTY, Ind. (WLFI) — A Lafayette gang member is sentenced to 14 years for criminal recklessness and gang enhancement.

Heath Fletcher, 19, pleaded guilty in February to the charges. He had been accused of firing shots multiple times at Claystone at the Crossing in May of 2013.

Fletcher admitted to being a gang member during an interview with detectives. He had previously been found guilty of having a handgun without a license.

He was sentenced to 12 years in the department of corrections and 2 years of supervised probation.

Father overdoses on heroin, charged with neglect

Steven Porter, sporter@jconline.com

Tadd Mayhew, 27, of Lafayette, faces felony charges after he allegedly overdosed on heroin while entrusted with the care of his two young children.

The mother of the 2-year-old and 3-year-old children returned home after work June 9 to find a stranger on the front porch and her kids on a couch inside, court documents state.

"One child asked her why their dad was laying in the bathroom," states a probable cause affidavit.

The mother then discovered Mayhew and another male, later identified as Scott Mapes, unconscious on the bathroom floor. She dialed 911.

Officers were dispatched to the 1900 block of Morton Street shortly after 8 p.m., the affidavit states. They spoke with Jonathan Long, who'd been on the porch when the mother arrived home. He provided them with a bag containing syringes, spoons and heroin which he said belongs to Mayhew.

Mapes, who was interviewed June 10, said all three men had been using heroin in the house, two at a time.

"He said one of the three stayed out of the bathroom and watched the kids while the other two went in the bathroom to use the heroin," court documents state. "Then the third would have his turn to go in to use."

Mapes said they divided the heroin three ways and each had his own syringe.

Mayhew faces Class B felony possession of a narcotic drug, Class C felony neglect of a dependent, Class D felony possession of a syringe, Class D felony maintaining a common nuisance and Class A misdemeanor possession of paraphernalia.

He pleaded not guilty June 16 and was granted pauper counsel. His criminal history includes convictions for drunken driving and dealing cocaine in 2005.

Police in cat & mouse game with heroin dealers

Steven Porter, sporter@jconline.com

Joining a conversation taking place among law enforcement agencies across the country, local authorities are looking for ways to curb the rising tide of heroin in Greater Lafayette.

Lt. Troy Harris, who runs the West Lafayette Police Department's narcotics unit, said gathering information directly from addicts has been key in taking the pulse of drug activity on local streets. When officers get a consistent message corroborated by multiple sources, he said, they can make sense of trends with some degree of confidence.

Police aren't the only ones learning and adapting their practices, Tippecanoe County Prosecutor Pat Harrington said. Drug dealers are organized, he said, and have been known to employ counter-surveillance tactics of their own, keeping tabs on the cops tasked with keeping tabs on them.

"I don't think the public understands how dangerous it is for these undercover officers to be involved in drug cases," Harrington said. A street-level dealer can take in upward of \$3,000 per week, and their suppliers can make even more, he said.

"As they change their methods, we have to constantly change our methods," he said.

In addition to grappling with threats posed by heroin dealers, local authorities are discussing how to best deal with the problems caused and experienced by users.

Lafayette police Chief Patrick Flannelly said some have suggested that officers be equipped with doses of Naloxone, a drug used to counteract the effects of an opioid overdose.

He said just a few minutes could mean the difference between life or death for someone who's overdosed on heroin. Considering the quick response times of local paramedics, however, Flannelly said it may not be worthwhile to train officers in how to administer the drug.

"Compared to most urban communities, we're probably ahead of the curve," he said.

IU Health Arnett Hospital's chief of emergency medicine, Marc Estes, agreed.

"It's not as simple as just giving them a shot in the arm and they wake up," he said.

Paramedics already are trained and equipped to administer the drug and watch for side effects, he said.

"I don't know in our local setting that it's necessarily an advantage for local law enforcement to give it," he said. "It would require additional training on their part."

Flannelly said the importance of prevention and education efforts should not be understated. That's why, he said, Lafayette police work with the Drug Free Coalition of Tippecanoe County and are expanding the D.A.R.E. program to include seventh-graders.

"The message really needs to be about shared responsibility," he said. "When it becomes a police issue, it's already a community issue."

June 20, 2014: WLFITV

Lafayette man sentenced for holding people against their will



LAFAYETTE, Ind. (WLFITV) — A Lafayette man is sentenced to five years after he held several people against their will and pistol whipped one of them.

Herbert Kochell II, 21, pleaded guilty last month to three felonies, including battery with a deadly weapon.

Tippecanoe County Prosecutor Pat Harrington said Kochell got upset after he was kicked out of a strip club in December and held several people, including his sister, against their will in a home. At one point, he even fired a gunshot into the wall in the direction of someone who was hiding in the laundry room.

Kochell was sentenced to two years in prison, two years in community corrections and one year of supervised probation.

June 19, 2014: WLFITV

Man charged for burning Xbox, stealing flat-screen TV

WEST LAFAYETTE, Ind. (WLFI) – A Lafayette man faces charges after investigators said he stole items from a woman while she was waiting for him to work out.

Keith Rich, 28, has been charged with arson, burglary and theft. According to court documents, Thursday evening Rich showed up to the gym more than an hour late to work out with the woman and then left soon after.

When she returned to her West Lafayette home, it was filled with smoke. Firefighters found a burnt Xbox in a back bedroom. Several items were missing, including a flat-screen TV and a jar of coins worth \$100. The woman also noticed Rich's laptop on the couch and told police he hadn't been to her home for some time.

Neighbors saw a man loading up a car. Deputies found the car with the TV and jar full of coins inside.

June 17, 2014: WLFITV

PU student cops plea deal to avoid deportation

WEST LAFAYETTE, Ind. (WLFI) — A Purdue student cops a plea deal of voyeurism to avoid being deported.

As part of the deal, Theresa Berger, 21, of Colorado was sentenced to one year of probation.

According to police reports, Berger took video of women inside the locker room at the France Córdoba Recreational Sports Center on campus last August. Berger told police she took screen shots of the videos of women undressing or naked women and sent them to her boyfriend in South Korea.

Berger told police she put Band-Aids on her feet so no one would question why she was in the locker room.

Berger's attorney Steve Knecht said she entered the guilty plea for voyeurism as a misdemeanor because she was caught on camera, and he said she faced deportation if convicted of a felony.

"There's some unique factors to this case, including the fact that she was a German citizen that's been here since a young child," Knecht said. "So, part of the process of working this out was to reach an agreement where she could not face potential deportation."

Knecht said Berger is back in Colorado serving out her probation.

June 16, 2014: Lafayette Journal and Courier

Woman sentenced after attempted murder acquittal



Steven Porter, sporter@jconline.com

Shannon Robertson, 44, smiled warmly at loved ones Monday afternoon as she entered Tippecanoe Superior Court 2 in a cool green inmate uniform and shackles.

She was sentenced minutes later for luring a Harrison High School teacher out of his home last summer and pointing a shotgun at him.

Robertson had been charged with attempted murder, a Class A felony, but a jury found her innocent last month, convicting her on four other felony counts.

June 12, 2014: Lafayette Journal and Courier

Newlywed husband sentenced for battering pregnant wife



Steven Porter, sporter@jconline.com

An 18-year-old Lafayette husband who battered his pregnant wife just three weeks after marrying her was sentenced Wednesday.

Lerry "Reo" Young was ordered to spend three years incarcerated followed by two years of probation for the Oct. 23 incident.

Young barged into another man's house without knocking, found his wife inside and grabbed her, according to a sentencing summary provided by the Tippecanoe County Prosecutor's Office.

The 19-year-old victim, who was not named in the document, told police that Young slapped her, put his arms around her throat and choked her to the ground until she blacked out.

The man in whose home the incident took place told investigators that he saw Young put his hands around the throat of his wife and a baby boy in her arms.

Young bit the man twice as he tried to pull him off the pregnant woman, the man told police.

Another witness told police she saw Young kick his wife in the stomach.

Officers reported that Young tried to fight them, too, after they transported him to the hospital for treatment.

He was charged with five felonies and two misdemeanors, including strangulation and battery on a child, but he pleaded guilty to just the lead charge: battery on a pregnant woman resulting in bodily injury, a Class C felony.

Jury convicts sex offender of preying on girl in park



Steven Porter, sporter@jconline.com

A jury found Scott Johnson, 49, guilty Wednesday of preying on a 16-year-old girl with mild cognitive disabilities.

He faces up to 50 years for the offense, which happened in a Columbian Park bathroom on Aug. 23, 2012.

The jury deliberated for 3½ hours after two days of trial, according to Tippecanoe County Prosecutor Pat Harrington.

Johnson was convicted of Class B felony criminal deviate conduct and Class D felony sexual battery for which he'll be ordered to serve six to 20 years concurrently. A habitual offender enhancement added 10 to 30 years, bringing his total range to 16 to 50 years, Harrington said.

Another charge, Class D felony criminal confinement, was dismissed.

A sentencing hearing was scheduled for July 3 at 9:30 a.m.

June 10, 2014: Lafayette Journal and Courier

Man charged with battering pregnant woman

Steven Porter, sporter@jconline.com

Gary Gallien, 44, of Lafayette was charged Tuesday with battering a pregnant family member.

He faces a Class C felony charge and Class A misdemeanor charge for allegedly pushing the woman to the ground Monday.

Witnesses told police that Gallien was aware of the woman's pregnancy and that she was 23 weeks along, court documents state.

The victim said Gallien had demanded \$200 from her fiancé. He then became angry, took off his shirt and charged toward the man, knocking over the pregnant woman in the process, according to a probable cause affidavit.

Officers were dispatched just before 10 p.m. Monday to investigate an initial report that Gallien had punched the victim in the abdomen. The victim told detectives on the scene, however, that she had been knocked over, landed on her side and didn't think the baby had been injured.

She said she wasn't sure whether Gallien intended to push her down, the affidavit states.

Lafayette man charged after pushing pregnant daughter

TIPPECANOE COUNTY, Ind. (WLFITV) — A Lafayette man is charged with battery after allegedly knocking his pregnant daughter down.

Investigators said that Gary Gallien, 44, was looking for his daughter's fiancé and wanting to collect \$200 from the couple.

Documents allege that Gallien tore off his own shirt and pushed over his daughter while trying to get to her fiancé. She says she fell hard on her side and that she possibly blacked out.

Gallien faces two counts of battery, one felony and one misdemeanor.

June 6, 2014: Lafayette Journal and Courier

Employee takes company card on shopping spree

Steven Porter, sporter@jconline.com

While her boss spent a week on vacation, Deborah Trueblood spent his money.

The 36-year-old woman pleaded guilty to two Class C felony counts of forgery. She was sentenced Friday to six years with Indiana Department of Correction.

Michael Neikrug, owner of the Nestle Cafe at Tippecanoe Mall, notified authorities in May 2011 that Trueblood, his employee, had used the corporate credit card in an unauthorized manner.

Neikrug had entrusted the card to Trueblood in his absence but said she made purchases at Perfumania, Bath & Body Works, Gordmans, Famous Footwear and Tippecanoe County Community Corrections without permission.

Court documents state that security camera footage caught Trueblood signing receipts that bore the name of her boss' wife.

Trueblood didn't return to work at the end of Neikrug's vacation but had a friend return the card, court documents state.

Neikrug informed investigators that four checks totaling more than \$3,100 in additional unauthorized expenditures appeared to have been forged by Trueblood. She admitted in July 2011 to writing all the checks.

Trueblood's criminal history includes previous forgery convictions in 1995, 2002 and 2007, plus a check fraud conviction in 2008.

June 6, 2014: Lafayette Journal and Courier

Son charged with injuring dad in scuffle

Steven Porter, sporter@jconline.com

A backyard family gathering turned violent last weekend ending with one man in custody and his father in the hospital with a head injury, court documents state.

Larry Gunion II, 46, of Lafayette pleaded not guilty Friday to Class C felony battery resulting in serious bodily injury and Class D felony criminal recklessness.

Witnesses told police the son began to punch his father and “slammed his head against the fence,” according to a probable cause affidavit.

Gunion denied battering his father. He told investigators the two had been drinking beer, then his father punched him and fell into the fence on his own, court documents state.

Accounts given by the son’s girlfriend and her 16-year-old daughter, however, indicate otherwise.

The girl said Gunion became enraged, grabbed the top of a metal fire pit and came at her aggressively as if to strike her, the affidavit states. The scuffle broke out when his father stepped in and told him not to touch the girl.

Interviewed at the hospital, the father said his son punched him in the stomach when he tried to intervene, knocking him into the fence then onto the ground.

The father said his hand got caught in the fence, rendering him incapable of defending himself as he fell unconscious twice.

Medical records indicate the father suffered a subarachnoid hemorrhage with brief loss of consciousness, court records state.

When Lafayette police Officer Ron Dombkowski arrived on the scene, he reportedly found the father lying face down in the dirt with Gunion II saying “I’m sorry” while attempting to pick him up.

A no contact order was issued, and bond was set at \$500 cash. A jury trial is scheduled for Aug. 12.

June 6, 2014: Lafayette Journal and Courier

Teen faces child porn charges

Steven Porter, sporter@jconline.com

Quintin Talbott, 18, of Lafayette was arrested Wednesday on three Class D felony counts of possessing child pornography.

Investigators found about 49 images that depict child porn saved in a folder on Talbott's cloud storage account, plus more than 25 such pictures in a digital recycling bin, according to a probable cause affidavit.

Prosecutors identified three photos in Talbott's possession as belonging to sets of images known to the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children as the basis for the charges.

June 6, 2014: WLFITV

Son of rifle-toting man charged for attempted robbery

LAFAYETTE, Ind. (WLFITV) — The son of a Mulberry man who is walking through Lafayette with a rifle this week is charged with trying to rob a convenience store.

Thomas Sanders, 20, is accused of trying to hold up the Village Pantry on Brady Lane in January. He was charged this with two felonies from the January incident.

Court documents claim that Sanders entered the store wearing a mask and said he had gun. He stated he had to pay his child support.

Documents said the clerk thought it was a joke and called the police. Police said Sanders then left the store.

Sanders was charged this week with attempted theft and attempted robbery.

June 5, 2014: Lafayette Journal and Courier

Would-be robber retreats, faces charges anyway

Steven Porter, sporter@jconline.com

Thomas Sanders, 20, of Lafayette allegedly tried to rob a Village Pantry in January but fled when the store clerk grabbed a phone to call police.

Security camera footage shows a man wearing a brown jacket and camouflage face mask approach the clerk after everyone else had left the building, according to a probable cause affidavit.

The clerk told police that the man, later identified as Sanders, put his hand in his jacket pocket, claimed to have a gun and demanded money from the cash register.

"The male called her by name and also commented he had to pay his child support," the affidavit states.

Acting on a tip that identified the suspect as Sanders, officers showed an array of photos to the clerk and another witness who spoke to Sanders in the store moments before the incident. Both identified Sanders as the attempted robber.

Consequently, two charges were filed this week against Sanders. He made an initial court appearance Wednesday and pleaded not guilty to Class C felony attempted robbery and Class D felony attempted theft.

Sanders was released on \$500 cash bond. A jury trial is scheduled for Oct. 7.

June 5, 2014: WLFITV

Woman accused of using stolen credit card sentenced



LAFAYETTE, Ind. (WLF) — A Lafayette woman is sentenced to three years for spending more than \$2,100 on a stolen credit card in less than six hours.

In May, Kelli Cooksey, 40, pleaded guilty to fraud and theft.

According to court documents, Cooksey was working at Inside Scoop at Tippecanoe Mall in December. A credit card was used by a customer and the customer didn't realize she never got her card back until the fraud department with her bank called.

After investigating, Lafayette police linked Cooksey to eight transactions at stores including Express, Best Buy, and Walmart.

She was sentenced to one year in Community Corrections and two years supervised probation.

June 5, 2014: WLFITV

Woman sentenced after Tippecanoe County burglary



TIPPECANOE COUNTY, Ind. (WLFI) – Natasha Ollins, 27, of Lafayette, is sentenced to Community Corrections and probation after pleading guilty to conspiracy to commit burglary.

Prosecutors said sheriff's deputies responded to a reported burglary at a home near West Point in September 2012.

When the resident got home, she saw a strange car in her driveway and tried to block it in, but the driver took off through the grass. After the resident went inside, she found an iPad and jewelry had been stolen.

She was able to identify Ollins' photograph.

Ollins was sentenced to five years in Community Corrections and five years of probation.

June 5, 2014: Lafayette Journal and Courier

Would-be robber retreats, faces charges anyway

Steven Porter, sporter@jconline.com

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June 4, 2014: Lafayette Journal and Courier

Overnight guest allegedly molested 6-year-old girl

Steven Porter, sporter@jconline.com

William Coleman slept on a Lafayette family's couch more than two years ago, but prosecutors allege he didn't stay in the living room all night.

Coleman, 44, slipped into a 6-year-old girl's bedroom while she was sleeping and molested her, according to a probable cause affidavit filed Monday.

Interviewed the day after the incident, the girl told investigators that "Bill" entered her room and knelt beside her bed as he touched her.

Indiana State Police reported that a sample from the girl's sexual assault examination showed DNA found on the victim is consistent with that obtained from Coleman, court documents state.

Coleman faces a Class C felony for fondling the victim and a Class A felony for digital penetration.

The penalty for a Class A felony is 20 to 50 years. The lesser charge is punishable by two to eight years.

June 3, 2014: WLFITV

Lafayette man charged with child molesting

LAFAYETTE, Ind. (WLFI) — A Lafayette man has been charged with two counts of child molesting.

William Coleman, 44, faces two felony counts for an event investigators said happened more than two years ago involving a 6-year-old girl.

Investigators said Coleman was staying at a couple's home in April 2012 when the offenses occurred. They also said a DNA profile obtained via swab from the victim matched Coleman.

May 30, 2014: Lafayette Journal and Courier

17-year-old to face Lafayette burglary charges as adult

Steven Porter, sporter@jconline.com

A teenage boy arrested in connection with a string of recent burglaries in Lafayette was waived into adult court this week.

Nicholas Dettman, 17, of Lafayette, faces 10 felony charges that allege he and another boy burglarized multiple homes in the vicinity of Columbian Park in April and May.

He faces eight Class B felonies for burglary and conspiracy to commit burglary, one count of Class C felony burglary and one Class D felony for conspiracy to commit theft.

Any criminal proceeding initiated against Dettman's 15-year-old co-defendant is confidential because he's still being treated as a juvenile. Dettman lost his shroud of confidentiality, however, when Tippecanoe Superior Court 3 Judge Faith Graham ordered that his case be transferred from juvenile to adult court.

Graham's order states that Dettman is "beyond rehabilitation of the juvenile justice system" and that it's in the best interest of both Dettman and society at large that he stand trial as an adult.

The document details the boy's criminal history, which began with an arrest at age 9 for theft and includes subsequent adjudications for theft, battery and running away. He violated the terms of his probation in 2012, court documents state, when he tested positive for marijuana and admitted to using drugs and alcohol.

He's been on probation three times and held at two juvenile detention centers on multiple occasions each.

Per Graham's order, Dettman was transported this week to Tippecanoe County Jail, where he's being held in lieu of \$12,500 surety bond.

May 30, 2014: Lafayette Journal and Courier

Man who fled to Pakistan sentenced for 1999 car thefts



Steven Porter, sporter@jconline.com

Nearly 15 years ago, an American man fled to Pakistan after being charged with breaking into a Lafayette car dealership, stealing multiple vehicles and setting one of them on fire at Purdue University.

Abu-Bakr Usman Mirza, 33, returned to U.S. soil late last year, signed a plea agreement in April and was sentenced Thursday to four years executed with the Indiana Department of Correction followed by 18 months of supervised probation.

Mirza testified during his sentencing hearing that he came back from Pakistan, his family's home country, to face the charges locally, according to Tippecanoe County Prosecutor Pat Harrington.

He pleaded guilty to three of the seven charges brought against him, including a Class C felony for burglary.

The most serious charge, Class B felony arson, was dismissed, per the plea deal.

In addition to the intentional burning of a Mercury Grand Marquis near Purdue's engineering fountain, court documents recount a dramatic, early morning chase throughout Greater Lafayette.

Driving a stolen minivan, Mirza reportedly reached 75 mph in downtown Lafayette and went airborne when he crossed railroad tracks on Columbia Street. He proceeded into West Lafayette, where he sideswiped a large rock and ran over a 3-foot steel barrier west of Stanley Coulter Hall.

“The van was dragging one of the steel posts it had struck, causing a shower of sparks to fly,” the affidavit states.

Mirza eventually lost a tire before he jumped from the vehicle near Evergreen Street, letting the van crash into a tree. He then ran into a home in the 500 block of Stadium Street, where officers apprehended him, the affidavit states.

Mirza has been ordered to pay \$4,500 in restitution to Bob Rohrman Auto Group. He’s also wanted in Howard County on burglary charges from 2000.

May 29, 2014: Lafayette Journal and Courier

Man charged for robbing delivery driver

TIPPECANOE COUNTY, Ind. (WLFI) – A Lafayette man faces robbery, theft and battery charges after prosecutors said he punched and robbed a sandwich delivery driver.

The incident occurred on 21st Street in Lafayette Saturday, May 24. Prosecutors said when the driver arrived, Zachary Collins asked him to break a \$100 bill. He then took the driver’s wallet and threw punches at his head during a struggle.

Prosecutors said Collins ran off with the wallet. Even though Collins changed clothes before police arrested him, the victim and a witness identified him as the person of interest.

Prosecutors said officers located the clothes and money inside an apartment where Collins was found.

May 28, 2014: Lafayette Journal and Courier

Another prostitution arrest for teen

Ron Wilkins, rwilkins@jconline.com

Malika Nichole Granados’ adult entertainment advertisement read, “Take you to the candy shop. ...” That led a police officer to respond to the ad and then take her to jail, according to Lafayette police.

Granados, 19, was arrested at an eastside motel Tuesday night after a police officer responded to an Internet ad and set up a meeting, Lafayette police Lt. Jim Taul said, reading from the police report.

Granados was charged with promoting prostitution and prostitution, both misdemeanors. She is being held in Tippecanoe County Jail.

She was previously charged in December with a Class A misdemeanor for prostitution. A guilty plea hearing in that case was scheduled for Wednesday morning, but jail staff said records indicate that she didn’t leave the jail to make that hearing.

Taul said Granados gave police a Lafayette address when arrested. In the December arrest she gave a Fayetteville, Ark., address, Taul said.

Man who fled US after arrest is sentenced

TIPPECANOE COUNTY, Ind. (WLFI) – A man who fled the United States for more than a decade because of criminal charges is sentenced to five and a half years in prison on Thursday.

Charges including arson, burglary and theft were filed in 1999 against Abu-Baker Mirza, 33.

As News 18 reported, Mirza broke into the Bob Rohrman Mercury car dealership and stole a Grand Marquis. He drove the car to Purdue's campus and set it on fire.

After Mirza was arrested, prosecutors said he fled to Pakistan where his family is from.

In December, Mirza was arrested at the Atlanta airport when he tried to return to the U.S. He pleaded guilty in early May to burglary, theft of a motor vehicle and resisting law enforcement.

Mirza was sentenced Thursday morning to four years in prison and a year and a half of supervised probation.

On Thursday, Mirza testified he was aware of his warrant and "came back to face the charges."

Prostitution cases increase in Tippecanoe Co

By Kelly Roberts

TIPPECANOE CO., Ind. (WLFI) — This year the Tippecanoe County Prosecutor's Office has filed 14 prostitution cases. A number that has skyrocketed from 2013.

The arrest of 19-year-old Malika Nichole Granados is part of several growing trends in Tippecanoe County. She was arrested Tuesday on preliminary charges of promoting prostitution and prostitution.

In the first five months of 2014, Tippecanoe County Prosecutor Pat Harrington has filed 14 prostitution cases when he is used to filing one to five per year.

It's a growing trend that could be thanks in part to the internet.

"The image my generation has of prostitution is the car driving up and down the dark alley looking for a lady on the corner, like you see in the movies. That type of activity doesn't exist. They all use the internet to promote, contact and arrange," explained Harrington.

Granados was arrested at the Red Roof Inn on State Road 26 in Lafayette.

Harrington said a majority of the arrests are at hotels indicating most of the prostitutes are coming from out of town.

"In fact, the majority of the ladies that have been arrested are not even from the Tippecanoe County area," Harrington said. "They're driving the interstate, and making contacts and arranging to be here in our community."

For Harrington, the most alarming trend is the age.

“There have been several arrests where the women aren’t women. They are 18, 19, 20 years old. They’re still teenagers. That’s very disturbing,” Harrington said.

Harrington said there has been one case where the girl was under 18 years old.

As for Granados, a formal charge of prostitution, a Class A misdemeanor, has been filed against her.

May 23, 2014: WLFITV

Cousins’ attorney plans to use insanity defense

By Dan Klein

TIPPECANOE CO., Ind. (WLFI) — The attorney for Cody Cousins has filed a notice that he plans to use a defense of mental disease or defect.

On Friday, Superior II Judge Thomas Busch signed off on an order to get previous medical and psychiatric records of Cousins. Also Friday morning, two doctors from the Wabash Valley Alliance Steven Berger and Vernon Little were appointed to examine Cousins.

The judge’s order states that Cousins must tell the court the names of the people and institutions who have treated him in the past so that all of his records can be collected. If he fails to do so, the mental disease defense will be waived.

Trial is still set for Oct. 6. But as News 18 has already reported, the attorney for Cousins Kirk Freeman has requested a change of venue.

May 22, 2014: Lafayette Journal and Courier

Man sentenced for sexual misconduct with 8th-grader

Steven Porter, sporter@jconline.com

Michael Black, 30, of Lafayette was found guilty but mentally ill while engaging in sexual misconduct with a 14-year-old girl.

He was sentenced Thursday to 10 years with the Indiana Department of Correction.

The eighth-grade girl told investigators that she and Black had been exchanging flirtatious text messages.

Black said he and the girl kissed when she was 13 but that every incident of sexual touching occurred after her 14th birthday.

Black had known the girl’s family for about four years and had been living in their home, entrusted with her care at times. That he used that position of trust to pursue an improper relationship with her was identified by the judge as an aggravating factor in the case.

Mitigating factors included pleading guilty, cooperating with law enforcement, having family support and suffering from mental illness.

May 22, 2014: WLFITV

Man sentenced for sexual misconduct with a minor



TIPPECANOE COUNTY, Ind. (WLFI) — A Lafayette man is sentenced to a decade in prison for sexual misconduct with a minor.

Michael Black, 30, pleaded guilty to the felony charge in April. According to prosecutors, Black was having a sexual relationship with a 14-year-old girl he'd known since she was 11.

Thursday, Black was sentenced to 10 years, fully executed, in the department of corrections. Prosecutors said Black's mental illness was a mitigating factor in the sentencing.

May 21, 2014: Lafayette Journal and Courier

Report leads to Class A felony meth charge

Steven Porter, sporter@jconline.com

A landlord in the process of evicting two tenants with children from their West Lafayette home alerted authorities to unsafe living conditions, prompting a police investigation that ultimately led to serious drug charges.

Garrett Chaffin, 36, faces seven drug-related charges, including a Class A felony for dealing in methamphetamine.

Officers obtained a warrant to search Chaffin's home in the 2800 block of Soldiers Home Road, where they found a bucket containing items commonly used to manufacture methamphetamine, according to a probable cause affidavit filed by the Tippecanoe County Prosecutor's Office.

In addition to meth-making materials, officers reportedly found methamphetamine, marijuana, smoking paraphernalia, prescription pills and a set of digital scales in the apartment, the document states.

Chaffin, who returned home while officers were at his residence, had meth and a pipe in his possession, the affidavit states, noting that he admitted to trading pseudoephedrine pills for meth and using the drug himself.

A Class A felony carries a possible sentence of 20-50 years. Chaffin also faces a Class B felony for meth possession, a Class C felony illegal drug lab charge, two Class C felonies for neglect of a dependent, a Class D felony for maintaining a common nuisance and a Class A misdemeanor for possession of paraphernalia.

The dealing offense allegedly took place within 1,000 feet of Village Manor Apartments, Sagamore Ridge Apartments and the Montessori School of Greater Lafayette.

The affidavit notes that Chaffin's criminal history includes a Class B felony conviction for battery resulting in serious bodily injury, for which he is still on probation.

May 20, 2014: WLFITV

Man faces charges after landlord reports 'unsafe conditions'

TIPPECANOE CO., Ind. (WLFI) — A West Lafayette man faces methamphetamine and child neglect charges after prosecutors said he had items used to make the drug in his home.

Prosecutors said police went to the home of Garrett Chaffin, 36, after the landlord reported unsafe conditions and damage to the property. They said police found items used to make meth, prescription drugs and drug paraphernalia in the home.

Prosecutors said Chaffin came home while police were there and admitted using meth. Chaffin lived at the home with his wife and two young sons.

Chaffin faces charges including, but not limited to, dealing and possession of methamphetamine, neglect of a dependent, possession of paraphernalia, and maintaining a common nuisance.

May 17, 2014: Lafayette Journal and Courier

Accused Purdue shooter to undergo mental health evaluation

Ron Wilkins, rwilkins@jconline.com

Cody Cousins' sanity at the time he is accused of slaying 21-year-old Purdue University student Andrew Boldt informally became part of his legal defense Thursday morning.

Cousins' attorney, Kirk Freeman, filed a motion last week asking the court to finance a mental evaluation for Cousins, and he also filed a motion to reset the court's administrative deadline, which lapsed in March.

Tippecanoe Superior Court 2 Judge Thomas Busch interpreted those requests as the initial steps of Freeman raising the insanity defense, which Freeman confirmed was his intent.

"He treated it as if it was an insanity (defense) even though I haven't asked for it yet," Freeman said after the hearing.

Busch ordered Wabash Valley Alliance to provide one psychiatrist and one other expert to evaluate Cousins. Because of the high-profile nature of this case, Busch will ask for a third expert to evaluate Cousins. If at any time Cousins refuses to cooperate with those assessing his mental health, the insanity defense becomes moot, Busch said during the hearing.

Cousins, 23, is accused of stabbing and shooting Boldt in a basement classroom of the Electrical Engineering Building around noon Jan. 21.

Earlier this month, Cousins told the court that after arriving at the jail he was prescribed medicine to control his moods and treat schizophrenia.

Cousins' previous attorney hinted that he intended to raise the insanity defense, but the paperwork was never filed, Busch said during the hearing. Freeman asked that the deadline be reset in order to file the defense, he said after the hearing.

Since Busch will allow the defense, there is no need to reset the deadline, and Freeman's motion was denied.

Freeman, who filed his appearance as Cousins' attorney on Monday, filed several other motions that day, including a request for a change of venue, which Busch said requires the court have a hearing to debate the issue.

Tippecanoe County Prosecutor Patrick Harrington said it was too soon to determine if the jury pool might be tainted by media coverage, publicity or the community's reaction to the shooting. Harrington proposed setting a hearing in September, closer to the Oct. 6 trial date. By that time, Freeman, the court and the prosecution will have a broader view of the effect to the potential jurors. Freeman did not object.

Busch approved Freeman's request to fund a computer consultant to assist with reviewing video and audio evidence, and he approved the request to fund a court reporter for depositions and transcripts. However, Busch denied Freeman's request to fund a private investigator to help on the case. Instead, Freeman, who is a specially appointed public defender, may use investigators in the public defender's office.

Freeman also filed a motion for the state and third parties to produce documents and preserve computer documents, such as Purdue records. Busch delayed ruling on that until Freeman receives the evidence released to Cousins' first attorney in the discovery process. Freeman expected to receive those documents by Saturday. Additionally, some of the requests for records from third parties should be vetted by the parties' counsel to determine if they intend to contest Freeman's request.

A hearing is scheduled for 8:30 a.m. May 23 to review the motions for documents.

May 16, 2014: Lafayette Journal and Courier

Lafayette man gets 10 years for strangling girlfriend

Steven Porter, sporter@jconline.com

Misael Sanchez, who strangled his girlfriend in a fit of rage last year before fleeing the state with his children, was sentenced Friday to a 10-year executed sentence.

A jury found Sanchez guilty in April of voluntary manslaughter, a Class B felony, for the slaying of 25-year-old Marisol Arze-Lujan. He originally was charged with murder but the jury convicted him of the lesser charge.

Sanchez read a statement to Tippecanoe Circuit Court Judge Don Daniel during the hearing to express remorse.

"I wish I could take it all back," he said. "I pray one day the family will see how sorry I am, really sorry."

Sanchez began to cry when he spoke of the harm he'd done to his children.

"I can hear them crying for their mother," he said, noting that one day he'll have to confess to them as well.

Defense attorney Matt Sandy said his client hopes to continue supporting his children financially and one day have a relationship with them again.

Sandy argued that Sanchez should be sentenced to just eight years incarcerated because he fully cooperated with investigators, took responsibility for his actions and exhibits a low risk to re-offend, according to the pre-sentence investigation.

Those who know Sanchez describe him as kind, hard-working and especially caring toward his family, Sandy said.

Prosecuting attorney Kristen McVey countered Sandy's argument, saying that Sanchez didn't even try to resuscitate his girlfriend before fleeing. She said that Sanchez and his family lied to investigators, exhibiting a disrespect for the law.

Though the two misdemeanor convictions on Sanchez's record for driving without a license are far less severe than his manslaughter conviction, McVey said Sanchez further exhibited a disregard for "lawful social norms" even after being punished.

"The fact remains that he's been driving for 15 years without a license," she said.

McVey said five police reports dating back to 2007 clearly and accurately depict Sanchez' relationship with his girlfriend as bearing the hallmarks of domestic abuse. Accounts given in those reports by multiple people, including Arze-Lujan herself, point to chronic issues of control and aggression by Sanchez, McVey said.

"This was not an anomaly that he killed her," she said.

McVey asked the judge for a 20-year executed sentence, prompting a quizzical tone from Daniel.

"You think this was the worst of the worst?" Daniel asked.

McVey responded in the affirmative.

"This day was coming for a long time prior to the killing," she said.

Daniel determined that the aggravating and mitigating factors in Sanchez's case were roughly equivalent, so he settled on the advisory sentence set by the state legislature for a Class B felony.

May 16, 2014: WLFITV

Man sentenced to 10 years for killing mother of his kids

TIPPECANOE CO., Ind. (WLFI) – The Lafayette man convicted of voluntary manslaughter was sentenced to 10 years behind bars.

Misael Sanchez, 33, was charged with murder last year for killing Marisol Arze-Lujan, 25, in their Lafayette home last year.

Authorities found Sanchez in Arkansas with the couple's three children.

During the trial last month, a taped video of Sanchez was played for the jury while he was in custody in Arkansas. In that video, Sanchez confessed to killing Arze-Lujan, his longtime girlfriend. He said she was hitting him and yelling at him before he grabbed her by the neck for several minutes.

The jury convicted Sanchez of the lesser charge voluntary manslaughter, because they said he acted under what's called "sudden heat."

In court Friday, the defense recommended the judge sentence Sanchez to eight years behind bars for killing his girlfriend. The state asked for the maximum of 20 years.

Sanchez was emotional as he read a letter to the judge Friday. Sanchez said he wishes he could take back what happened. He said he was sorry for the pain he caused their three children, and said one day he will have to tell them the truth about how their mother died.

On top of the 10 year sentence Sanchez will have to pay \$5,000 in restitution.

Ex-pastor admits to planting restroom video cameras

Steven Porter, sporter@jconline.com

Robert Lyzenga, the former pastor of Sunrise Christian Reformed Church in Lafayette, admitted Thursday to secretly video-recording women and girls within two church restroom stalls over the course of several months more than two years ago.

Lyzenga, 57, held his composure throughout the hearing and spoke with a stressed but steady tone as he pleaded guilty to all 10 counts, without the benefit of a plea agreement.

Judge Randy Williams set a sentencing hearing for July 18 and said Lyzenga's sentence will be served concurrently, meaning he'll get two to 10 years.

Lyzenga admitted to five Class C felonies for child exploitation and five counts of Class D felony voyeurism, one charge for each of his 10 victims.

The girls ranged in age from 5 to 16 when they were caught by Lyzenga's camera.

"It was not my intention to record children," he said during testimony Thursday.

Even after learning that juveniles had been recorded, however, Lyzenga continued recording and reviewing the footage, he said.

Lyzenga said he thought early on that he wouldn't feel terribly guilty as long as he didn't know which parishioners he'd recorded. After awhile, though, he did figure out who his victims were, he said.

He installed the first camera during the Thanksgiving 2011 season. The second one went up, he said, in early 2012. He pointed the devices at two of the five toilets in the women's restroom just off the sanctuary, where Lyzenga continued to lead services.

"They were Velcro-ed to the door," he said. "I made it look like it was an air freshener."

Lyzenga continued as pastor about five months, during which time he downloaded footage, then reinstalled the cameras more times than he could recall, until he was caught in late April 2012.

"I could've stopped at any time, but I didn't," he said, calling his actions "shameful."

Lyzenga said he hasn't undergone treatment for a mental illness, though he did go to a psychiatric hospital the day after he was arrested.

About a dozen members of the church community who attended the hearing declined to comment.

Defense attorney Kent Moore said after the hearing that his client didn't target the juveniles.

"He was aware of the possibility," Moore said, "but the goal was not to video children."

Prosecuting attorney Emily Worsinger declined to comment.

Lafayette pastor pleads guilty to all charges



By Holly Campbell

TIPPECANOE CO., Ind. (WLFI) — A former Lafayette pastor who is accused of child exploitation and voyeurism pleads guilty to ten charges.

As News 18 previously reported, Robert Lyzenga pleaded guilty to all charges, five felony counts of child exploitation and five felony counts of voyeurism for planting cameras inside air fresheners in the women's bathroom stalls at Sunrise Christian Reformed Church.

On Thursday, Lyzenga said he wanted to see if he could get away with it. After no one detected the first camera hidden inside the stall to look like an air freshener, he said he put another one up.

Lyzenga said it was never his intention to tape children. However he said he reviewed the tape, saw kids and continued to record.

Because he couldn't see the faces of the women he was recording, Lyzenga said he didn't think he would feel as bad. However, Lyzenga said he eventually figured out who they were.

The sentencing date has been set for July 18. He could spend anywhere from two to 10 years in prison.

May 15, 2014: Lafayette Journal and Courier

Lafayette man charged in May 10 shooting

Steven Porter, sporter@jconline.com

Joshua Allen, 22, of Lafayette, was charged Thursday in connection with a weekend shooting that left 22-year-old Sean Gentle injured outside Allen's residence in the 3000 block of Elk Street.

Allen was arrested Saturday on a preliminary charge of attempted murder, but the formal charges brought against him are less severe. He faces a Class B felony for aggravated battery plus three Class C felonies: battery by means of a deadly weapon, battery resulting in serious bodily injury and criminal recklessness.

Tippecanoe County Prosecutor Pat Harrington said it's up to his office to determine which charges should be brought. He said every investigation is fluid and that charges can be added or dropped.

Officers called to the scene Saturday found Gentle leaning against a vehicle, with a gunshot wound to his abdomen, according to a probable cause affidavit. Gentle was taken to St. Elizabeth East hospital, where he underwent surgery and was later interviewed by investigators.

Allen was found three blocks away with blood on his clothes and an abrasion on his forehead.

Witnesses said Allen had initiated verbal contact with Gentle before a physical altercation broke out, followed by two gunshots, court documents state.

A neighbor reported seeing Allen strike Gentle, then shoot him.

Allen appears to have been convicted in Illinois for unlawful possession of a firearm by a gang member in 2012, according to the probable cause affidavit. He was convicted of resisting law enforcement in 2010, trespassing in 2011 and two additional counts of trespassing in 2013.

May 15, 2014: WLFITV

Lafayette man avoids murder charges

By Alexandra Kruczek

TIPPECANOE CO., Ind. (WLFI) — A Lafayette man avoids attempted murder charges after prosecutors said he shot a man last weekend.

Prosecutors said Joshua Allen, 22, got into a fight with Sean Gentle, 22, on Elk Street Saturday, May 10. During the incident, they said Allen shot Gentle in the abdomen.

Gentle was taken to St. Elizabeth East Hospital and had surgery for his wounds.

Prosecutors said witnesses told police the men got into a physical altercation before Allen fired the shots.

They said police found Allen a few blocks away with blood on his shoes and boxer shorts.

Allen faces charges including aggravated battery, battery and criminal recklessness. He had originally faced a preliminary charge of attempted murder.

May 15, 2014: WLFITV

Pastor accused of child exploitation has plea hearing

By Alexandra Kruczek / Holly Campbell

TIPPECANOE CO., Ind. (WLFI) — A high-profile case will be in court later Thursday afternoon for the plea hearing of Robert Lyzenga.

As News 18 previously reported, a former Lafayette pastor who is accused of child exploitation and voyeurism will plea guilty to ten charges. Lyzenga is accused of planting cameras inside air fresheners in the women's bathroom stalls at Sunrise Christian Reformed Church.

Lyzenga's attorney told the court last week his client will plead guilty to five felony counts of child exploitation and five felony accounts of voyeurism.

His attorney filed a motion to dismiss the charges in June arguing the victims lacked knowledge of a hidden camera photographing them, and the charges do not fit the child exploitation statute. The judge disagreed and denied the motion.

The hearing begins at 3:30 p.m. Thursday.

Holly Campbell will have more details on the hearing tonight on News 18 at Five and Six.

May 15, 2014: WLFITV

Cousins may use insanity defense in trial

By Holly Campbell

TIPPECANOE COUNTY, Ind. (WLFI) – The man accused of killing a Purdue student on campus earlier this year may use an insanity defense.

In Thursday's hearing, the judge addressed Cody Cousins' recently appointed public defender Kirk Freeman's motion for expenditure of public funds. On the list was a mental health assessment.

The judge granted the expenses for the evaluation and treated the request as a notice of insanity defense. That means the defense has the option to use the defense of insanity during trial. Cousins will be evaluated by two psychiatrists or psychologists from the Wabash Valley Alliance.

If Cousins does not cooperate with the medical witnesses appointed by the court, evidence from any other medical witnesses may not be used as evidence. In court last week, Cousins said he is taking medicine for schizophrenia.

Freeman also wants Cousins' trial moved out of Tippecanoe County. Prosecutor Pat Harrington said the state needs more time to respond to the change of venue request. Another hearing on that will be at a later date.

Cousins' trial date is still set for Oct. 6, 2014 in Tippecanoe County.

May 14, 2014: Lafayette Journal and Courier

Man accused of misconduct with girl, 15

Steven Porter, sporter@jconline.com

Christopher Wilson, 22, of Lafayette faces allegations that he engaged in a sex act with a 15-year-old girl on Easter Sunday.

He was charged Wednesday with sexual misconduct with a minor, a Class B felony.

The victim's mother, who identified herself as Wilson's ex-girlfriend, said the defendant was aware of her daughter's age because the alleged crime took place during the girl's birthday party, according to a probable cause affidavit from the Tippecanoe County Prosecutor's Office.

The girl's grandmother told officers she discovered Wilson indecently exposed in the kitchen with her granddaughter, the document states.

Wilson, who told officers he was drunk at the time, denied specific allegations but admitted sending to the victim Facebook posts that indicated his involvement.

May 12, 2014: WLFITV

Cousins' new attorney wants a change of venue

By Kyle Boyd

TIPPECANOE CO., Ind. (WLFI) – The new attorney representing Cody Cousins wants a judge to move the murder trial out of Tippecanoe County.

Kirk Freeman, the newly appointed public defender, is seeking a change of venue for the trial, which is currently scheduled for October.

Freeman cited six reasons for the trial to move including that Purdue University is a major employer in the county where a potential jury pool would be drawn, and that recent reporting of Cousins' use of mental health medication has been "inflammatory."

Freeman is also seeking public funds for a computer consultant, a private investigator for assistance in locating records and witnesses, a court reporter, and a mental health assessment for Cousins.

Academic and disciplinary records for both Cody Cousins and Andrew Boldt have been requested.

In documents filed Monday is a motion to preserve computer records including files, time logs and audio/video recordings from the Purdue and West Lafayette Police departments, the Tippecanoe County Sheriff's Office, Indiana Homeland Security Department, and Purdue and West Lafayette Fire departments.

A motion to continue or reset the omnibus date was also in Monday's filings.

A scheduling conference has been set for May 16.

May 10, 2014: Lafayette Journal and Courier

Five charged in two motel meth busts

Steven Porter, sporter@jconline.com

Five defendants face a total of 11 charges after they were arrested in two recent motel room meth busts in Greater Lafayette.

Belinda Bernard-Yoakum, 37, of Lafayette was outside Room 116 at Prestige Inn in West Lafayette early on April 30 when officers made contact with her, according to a probable cause affidavit filed by the Tippecanoe County Prosecutor's Office. She consented to a search of the room occupied by her 2-year-old child and 36-year-old Shawn Yoakum, who's homeless.

Based on what officers found, the two were each charged with Class B felony possession of methamphetamine and Class A misdemeanor possession of paraphernalia. Yoakum also faces a Class B felony dealing in meth charge.

The next day, Lafayette officers visited Room 78 at Economy Inn, where they arrested 32-year-old Joseph Gia of Brookston, who rented the room, and two guests — Jeremy Richardson, 27, of West Lafayette, and Desiree Davis, 26, who's homeless.

Each of the three defendants faces Class B felony meth possession and Class C felony illegal drug lab charges.

All five defendants remained in custody Friday at Tippecanoe County Jail.

Bond is set at \$5,000 cash each for Bernard-Yoakum, Richardson, Davis and Gia.

Yoakum, who was also arrested on a warrant, would have to pay \$12,000 cash.

May 8, 2014: WLFITV

3 charged after meth found at Economy Inn

TIPPECANOE CO., Ind. (WLFI) – Charges are filed against three people after prosecutors said they had meth inside a Lafayette motel room.

Jeremy Richardson, 28, Desiree Davis, 27, and Joseph Gia, 32, all face charges of possession of methamphetamine and illegal drugs.

As News 18 reported last week, police said they found a meth lab and items used to make meth in a room at the Economy Inn on Sagamore Parkway.

Court documents said the Indiana State Meth Lab Team was also called in to handle hazardous materials found in the room.

May 8, 2014: WLFITV

Cousins granted new counsel, says he is taking schizophrenia meds

By Alexandra Kruczek / Krista Henery

TIPPECANOE CO., Ind. (WLFI) – Cody Cousins, the man accused of killing Purdue student Andrew Boldt, says that he has been prescribed medication for schizophrenia.

In court Thursday, Cousins said he has been taking Depakote to balance his mood.

Cousins will also have a new attorney.

Thursday was the second motion to withdraw Cody Cousins' counsel, attorney Robert Gevers. The first motion filed by Gevers to withdraw was submitted on Monday, April 21, 2014. The following day, an order denying the request was entered until a substitute attorney was chosen.

On Thursday, Cousins told the courtroom he no longer wanted Gevers to defend him. He explained he and Gevers had a conversation on April 7 at the jail, and after that conversation he no longer felt that he could trust Gevers.

Cousins would not comment further, other than he believed Gevers was motivated by financial gain.

The judge will now appoint a public defender to represent Cousins.

Cousins, 24, is being held in the Tippecanoe County jail without bond.

His trial date is set for Oct. 6, 2014.

May 7, 2014: Lafayette Journal and Courier

Cousins' attorney again tries to withdraw

Ron Wilkins, rwilkins@jconline.com

Cody Cousins is persistent in his efforts to fire his attorney.

Cousins, 23, is facing a murder charge. He's accused of killing 21-year-old Purdue University student Andrew Boldt in the Electrical Engineering Building on Jan. 21.

His attorney, Robert W. Gevers II, filed a motion late last month to withdraw, but the motion was denied because it did not meet the state's criteria for counsel to withdraw from a case after a specific court administrative date.

Gevers filed a second motion a few days after Tippecanoe Superior 2 Judge Thomas Busch denied Gevers' first motion. In the second filing, Gevers stated, "... Mr. Cousins directly informed counsel that Mr. Cousins no longer desired counsel's representation, and the attorney-client relationship has become irreparably deteriorated as a result of such conversations and encounters."

That criteria fits one of the reasons for counsel to be granted permission to withdraw, which Busch cited in his order denying Gevers' first motion.

But before Busch rules on Gevers' second request, he set a hearing for 9 a.m. Thursday to vet Gevers' motion and hear from Cousins about his effort to drop Gevers' services.

Gevers was retained a day or two before Cousins' Jan. 23 initial hearing. He also represented Cousins at a March 7 pretrial hearing, during which Cousins' trial date was set for Oct. 6.

The Journal & Courier will cover Thursday's hearing, and a story will be filed at jconline.com shortly after it concludes.

May 7, 2014: WLFI TV

Two charged for meth at motel

TIPPECANOE CO., Ind. (WLFI) – Two people face drug charges after prosecutors said they found evidence inside a West Lafayette hotel room.

Prosecutors said Belinda Bernard-Yoakum, 37, and Shawn Yoakum, 36, had meth in a room at the Prestige Inn last week. They said Belinda had a glass pipe outside when police arrived. She told police Shawn was inside with her two-year-old child.

Inside the bathroom, prosecutors said police found Shawn with 13 small baggies of methamphetamine and drug paraphernalia. Officers said they found other paraphernalia in the room.

According to police, the child was asleep on the floor of the hotel room.

Both Belinda and Shawn face charges of dealing and possession of methamphetamine and possession of paraphernalia. Belinda also faces charges of maintaining a common nuisance and neglect of a dependent.

May 7, 2014: TCPSN

Belinda Dawn Bernard-Yoakum, 37, and Shawn Dwayne Yoakum, 36, of Lafayette, IN were charged today in Tippecanoe County with the following:

Belinda Dawn Bernard-Yoakum:

Count I: Possession of Methamphetamine within 1,000 feet of Prestige Inn, Richfield Apartments, Anthrop Point Apartment, Highland Apartments and The Fairway Apartments (B fel)

Count II: Possession of Paraphernalia (A misd)

Count III: Maintaining a Common Nuisance (D fel)

Count IV: Neglect of a Dependent (C fel)

Shawn Dwayne Yoakum:

Count I: Dealing in Methamphetamine (B fel)

Count II: Possession of Methamphetamine within 1,000 feet of Prestige Inn, Richfield Apartments, Anthrop Point Apartment, Highland Apartments and The Fairway Apartments (B fel)

Count III: Possession of Paraphernalia (A misd)

This case was investigated by the West Lafayette Police Department.

May 5, 2014: WLFI TV

Man sentenced to 18 years in prison for 2012 bar fight

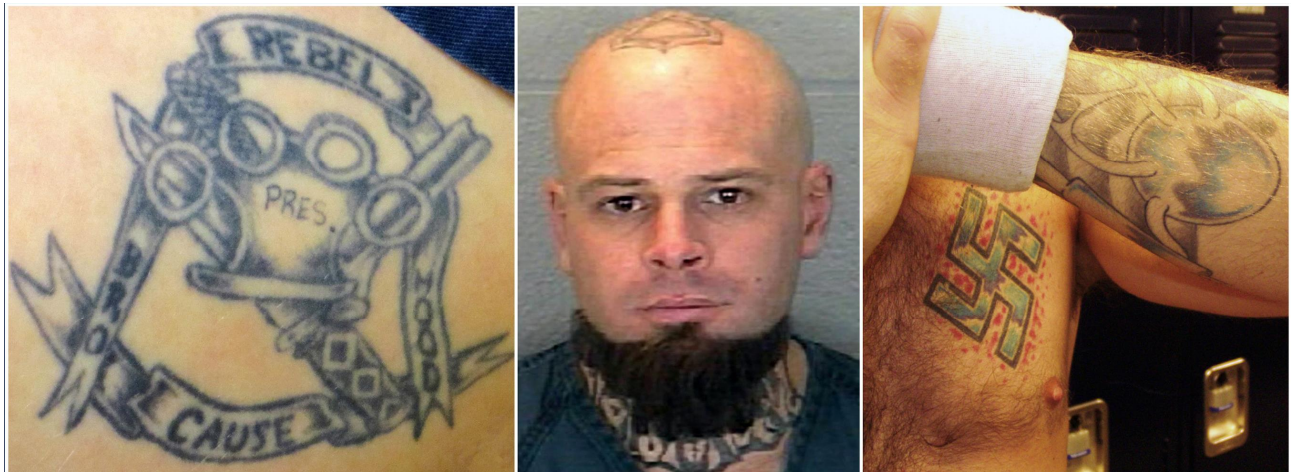
TIPPECANOE CO., Ind. (WLFI) – A Chicago man is sentenced to eight years behind bars after pleading guilty to forgery and producing a false government ID.

Prosecutors said Jeffery Moon tried to use fraudulent checks at a Lafayette Rural King on Teal Road in August. They said he tried to use a forged Department of Defense ID card.

The checks were both for \$674.09.

May 2, 2014: TCPSN

President of Rebel Cause Gang Sentenced to 19 Years Today in Tippecanoe County, IN



Brent Anthony Dimmitt, 37, of Clarks Hill, Indiana was sentenced today to 19 years following a Tippecanoe County jury verdict of guilty on the following charges: Battery Resulting in Serious Bodily Injury (C fel), Battery (A misd) and Criminal Gang Activity (D fel) and the his guilty plea to Habitual Offender. Sentence breakdown: IDOC 18 years, Supervised Probation 1 year; DOC Programs: CLIFF Program and/or any other available substance abuse treatment; No Contact Order: no contact with either victim.

May 2, 2014: TCPSN

Alexander William Burns, 23, Schuyler Joseph Cross, 27, and Melissa Nicole Hayden, 20, of Lafayette, IN have been charged with the following in Tippecanoe County:

Burns:

Count I: Neglect of a Dependent (D fel); Count II: Conspiracy to Commit Dealing in a Synthetic Drug or Synthetic Drug Lookalike (D fel); Count III: Dealing in a Synthetic Drug or Synthetic Drug Lookalike (D fel); Count IV: Possession of a Synthetic Drug or Synthetic Drug Lookalike (A misd); Count V: Maintaining a Common Nuisance (D fel)

Cross:

Count I: Conspiracy to Commit Dealing in a Synthetic Drug or Synthetic Drug Lookalike (D fel); Count II: Dealing in a Synthetic Drug or Synthetic Drug Lookalike (D fel); Count III: Possession of a Synthetic Drug or Synthetic Drug Lookalike (A misd); Count IV: Maintaining a Common Nuisance (D fel)

Hayden:

Count I: Neglect of a Dependent (D fel); Count II: Conspiracy to Commit Dealing in a Synthetic Drug or Synthetic Drug Lookalike (D fel); Count III: Possession of a Synthetic Drug or Synthetic Drug Lookalike (A misd); Count IV: Maintaining a Common Nuisance (D fel)

April 30, 2014: TCPSN

Andrea Lynn Bauer, 32, of Lafayette, IN was charged today in Tippecanoe County with: Count I: Dealing in Methamphetamine (B fel); Count II: Possession of Methamphetamine (D fel); Count III: Illegal Drug Lab (D fel); Count IV: Possession of Marijuana (A misd); and Count V: Operating Vehicle While Suspended (A misd).

April 30, 2014: TCPSN

Tramell Lawrence White, 24, of Lafayette IN was charged today with Count I: Possession of a Narcotic Drug – Heroin (B fel); Count II: Dealing in a Synthetic Drug or Synthetic Drug Lookalike (D fel); and Count III: Possession of a Synthetic Drug or Synthetic Drug Lookalike Substance (A misd) in Tippecanoe County.

April 30, 2014: TCPSN

Tiffany Rashell Burnside, 21, of Lafayette. IN was has been charged with Count I: Escape (C fel), Count II: Resisting Law Enforcement (A misd), Count III: Residential Entry (D fel), Count IV: Theft (D fel), and Count V: False Informing (A misd) in Tippecanoe County.

April 29, 2014: TCPSN

Anthony Lewis Jordon, 23, has been charged the following in Tippecanoe County, IN:

Count I: Dealing in Cocaine within 1,000 feet of Rail house Apartments, South Tipp Park, Bauer Community Center, Tippecanoe County Public Library (A fel)

Count II: Possession of Cocaine within 1,000 feet of Rail house Apartments, South Tipp Park, Bauer Community Center, Tippecanoe County Public Library (B fel)

Count III: Dealing in Cocaine within 1,000 feet of Rail house Apartments, South Tipp Park, Bauer Community Center, Tippecanoe County Public Library (A fel)

Count IV: Possession of Cocaine within 1,000 feet of Rail house Apartments, South Tipp Park, Bauer Community Center, Tippecanoe County Public Library (B fel)

Count V: Dealing in Cocaine within 1,000 feet of River Cross Apartments and St. James School (A fel)

Count VI: Possession of Cocaine within 1,000 feet of River Cross Apartments and St. James School (B fel)

This case was investigated by undercover officers and other officers working with the Drug Task Force.

April 29, 2014: TCPSN



Hakeem L. Evans, 18, of Lafayette was sentenced yesterday to 5 years for his guilty plea to Intimidation While Armed with a Deadly Weapon (C fel). The sentence breakdown is IDOC: 2 years, Supervised Probation: 3 years. Conditions / Programs / Special terms: Good and lawful behavior, Waiver of 4th amendment rights pertaining to search and seizure, Substance abuse evaluation and follow treatment recommendations, Nonviolent alternatives, Work toward earning GED.

April 29, 2014: TCPSN

Randy Lee Cheesman Jr, 20, and Juan Antonio Salazar Jr, 24, of Lafayette IN have been charged with the following in Tippecanoe County, IN:

Cheesman charges:

Count I: Conspiracy to Commit Burglary (B fel)

Count II: Burglary (B fel)

Count III: Theft (D fel)

County IV: Contributing to the Delinquency of a Minor (A misd)

Salazar's charges:

Count I: Theft/Receiving Stolen Property (D fel)

This case was investigated by the Lafayette Police Department.

April 28, 2014: WLFI TV

Man gets jail time for forgery



TIPPECANOE CO., Ind. (WLFI) – A Chicago man is sentenced to eight years behind bars after pleading guilty to forgery and producing a false government ID.

Prosecutors said Jeffery Moon tried to use fraudulent checks at a Lafayette Rural King on Teal Road in August. They said he tried to use a forged Department of Defense ID card.

The checks were both for \$674.09.

April 28, 2014: WLFI TV

Lafayette man sentenced after burglary



TIPPECANOE CO., Ind. (WLFI) – A Lafayette man gets a 12 year sentence after pleading guilty to burglary.

Prosecutors said 23-year-old Martell Williams went inside a couple's Lafayette home in September of last year. They said a woman was inside and saw Williams attempting to take a vase of change and a cellphone from a bedroom.

Officials said Williams ran from the home, but was later arrested on Sixth Street.

Williams is sentenced to four years behind bars and eight years on probation.

April 28, 2014: WLFI TV

No prescription for pills leads to charges

TIPPECANOE CO., Ind. (WLFI) – Drug charges are filed against a Lafayette woman after prosecutors said she had prescription pills without a valid prescription.

Prosecutors said police spoke with the driver of the car Da'Shanna Johnson was riding in because he was wanted on felony charges. It happened Wednesday.

They said while police spoke with the driver, another officer smelled marijuana on Johnson. After a search, police found Adderall, a form of Xanax and amphetamines in her purse.

She faces two counts of possession of a controlled substance

April 25, 2014: Lafayette Journal and Courier

Burglar gets four years in jail, eight on probation

Steven Porter

A woman, alone in her living room one evening last September, thought she heard her husband return home, walk up the stairs and enter her bedroom.

She soon saw, however, that the man was actually 23-year-old Martell Williams of Lafayette, a burglar who exited the bedroom carrying a vase, loose change and a cellphone.

Williams, who dropped the vase and phone, then fled, when the woman yelled at him, pleaded guilty to Class B felony burglary, according to court documents. He was sentenced this week in Tippecanoe Circuit Court.

The judge found Williams guilty but noted a history of mental illness, including diagnosed depression and schizophrenia, as a mitigating factor.

Williams' high risk to reoffend, his history of illegal drug use, previous unsuccessful attempts at rehabilitation, use of an alias and criminal history, on the other hand, were deemed by the court as aggravating factors. Williams was convicted of criminal trespassing and resisting law enforcement last year and resisting law enforcement in 2012, plus two convictions in 2009.

The judge issued a 12-year sentence, which will include four years with the Indiana Department of Correction followed by eight years of probation.

April 23, 2014: Lafayette Journal and Courier

Accused Purdue shooter doesn't want a lawyer Cody Cousins told his attorney on April 7 that he no longer desired counsel's representation.

Ron Wilkins, rwilkins@jconline.com

Suspected Purdue University shooter Cody Cousins doesn't want legal counsel, but he's going to get it.

Cousins, who is accused of killing a fellow engineering student, 21-year-old Andrew Boldt, in the Electrical Engineering Building, told his attorney on April 7 that he no longer desired counsel's representation, his attorney, Robert W. Gevers II, said in a motion to withdraw, filed Monday. Gevers has represented Cousins since the days following the Jan. 21 slaying.

But firing an attorney isn't that easy.

Tippecanoe Superior 2 Judge Thomas Busch denied Gevers' motion on Tuesday.

April 22, 2014: TCPSN

Sobhi Anwar Hindi, 24, Justin Layne Logsdon, 25, Randy Alan Long, 49, and Robert Charles McKendrie, 47, of Lafayette, IN have been charged with multiple drug offenses in Tippecanoe County.

Sobhi Anwar Hindi – Charges:

Count I: Conspiracy to Commit Dealing in Methamphetamine (B fel)

Count II: Dealing in Methamphetamine (B fel)

Count III: Possession of Methamphetamine (C fel)

Count IV: Illegal Drug Lab (D fel)

Count V: Possession of Paraphernalia (A misd)

Count VI: Unlawful Sale of a Precursor (D fel)

Justin Layne Logsdon – Charges:

Count I: Possession of Methamphetamine (C fel)

Count II: Count V: Possession of Paraphernalia (A misd)

Randy Alan Long – Charges:

Count I: Conspiracy to Commit Dealing in Methamphetamine (B fel)

Count II: Dealing in Methamphetamine (B fel)

Count III: Possession of Methamphetamine (C fel)

Count IV: Illegal Drug Lab (D fel)

Count V: Possession of Paraphernalia (A misd)

Robert Charles McKendrie – Charges:

Count I: Conspiracy to Commit Dealing in Methamphetamine (B fel)

Count II: Dealing in Methamphetamine (B fel)

Count III: Possession of Methamphetamine (C fel)

Count IV: Illegal Drug Lab (D fel)

Count V: Possession of Paraphernalia (A misd)

Count VI: Habitual Substance Offender

This case was investigated by the Lafayette Police Department.

April 21, 2014: TCPSN

Alisa Jean Balser, 33, of Lafayette, IN has been charged with Count I: Dealing in Methamphetamine within 1,000 feet of Linnwood School and Park, Hanna Community Center and Hanna Park (A fel); Count II: Possession of Methamphetamine within 1,000 feet of Linnwood School and Park, Hanna Community Center and Hanna Park (B fel); Count III: Dealing in a Narcotic Drug – Heroin within 1,000 feet of Linnwood School and Park, Hanna Community Center and Hanna Park (A fel); Count IV: Possession of a Narcotic Drug – Heroin within 1,000 feet of Linnwood School and Park, Hanna Community Center and Hanna Park (B fel); Count V: Dealing in Methamphetamine (B fel); and Count VI: Possession of Methamphetamine (D fel) in Tippecanoe County.

This case was investigated by the officers of the Drug Task Force.

April 21, 2014: TCPSN

Corey Eldon Smith, 35, of Lafayette, IN has been charged with Count I: Dealing in a Narcotic Drug – Heroin within 1,000 feet on Linnwood School and Park (A fel); Count II: Possession of a Narcotic Drug – Heroin within 1,000 feet of Linnwood School and Park (B fel); Count III: Dealing in a Narcotic Drug – Heroin (B felony); Possession of a Narcotic Drug – Heroin (D fel); Dealing in a Narcotic Drug – Heroin within 1,000 feet of Chapplegate Apartments, Klondike Elementary/Middle School Properties (A fel); Possession of a Narcotic Drug – Heroin within 1,000 feet of Chapplegate Apartments, Klondike Elementary/Middle School Properties (B fel) Count VII: Dealing in Cocaine within 1,000 feet of Chapplegate Apartments, Klondike Elementary/Middle School Properties (A fel); and Possession of Cocaine within 1,000 feet of Chapplegate Apartments, and Klondike Elementary/Middle School Properties (B fel).

This case was investigated by officers from Lafayette Police Department and West Lafayette Police Department working on the TC Drug Task Force

April 17, 2014: Lafayette Journal and Courier

Lafayette molester to grow old in prison



Dave Smith

A 34-year-old Lafayette man who pleaded guilty to rape and child molesting was sentenced Thursday to 42 years of prison, according to Tippecanoe County Prosecutor Pat Harrington.

Jeremy D. Stansberry was charged in Superior Court 1 with 16 counts that included rape, child molesting, sexual misconduct with a minor and attempted sexual misconduct. The alleged incidents occurred between January 2009 and August 2013 in the victim's home.

Stansberry pleaded guilty on March 20 to two counts: child molesting, a Class A felony, and rape, a Class B felony.

According to the probable cause affidavit, investigators in 2013 interviewed a 15-year-old girl who stated that Stansberry began touching her inappropriately five years previous and that he forced her to have sexual intercourse with him in 2013 on several occasions.

He was sentenced to 40 years for child molesting and 16 years for rape. The sentences are to be served consecutively. Moreover, the child molesting sentence will not be eligible for one day of credit for each day served, for a total time served of 42 years.

Harrington said Stansberry will be at least 76 when released from the Indiana Department of Correction. At that time he will be placed on four years of supervised probation.

April 17, 2014: Lafayette Journal and Courier

Lafayette man gets 12 years for southside bank robbery



A Lafayette man suspected of robbing a bank on Lafayette's south side last fall was sentenced Thursday to 12 years in prison.

Kenneth M. Wetterman, 49, pleaded guilty to one count of robbery and one count of being a habitual offender in the Oct. 18 robbery of Regions Bank on Teal Road.

According to the sentencing agreement, mental illness was a mitigating factor in the sentencing.

Investigators reported that Wetterman entered the bank about noon wearing a mask, hat and sunglasses. He demanded money and left with an undisclosed amount of cash.

Witnesses said he left in a silver Dodge pickup. They provided a license plate number, and a short time later, police stopped a vehicle matching that description and the license plate number at Virginia and 16th streets, a few blocks north of the bank.

He was arrested without incident. Police recovered money and gloves from the front seat of the truck and clothing matching the description of the robber in the truck bed.

No one was injured in the robbery, and no weapon was displayed.

According to Tippecanoe County Prosecutor Pat Harrington, Wetterman has a lengthy criminal history of arrests and/or convictions for theft, battery, escape, receiving stolen property, operating while intoxicated and escape.

A native of England, Wetterman had lived in Lafayette for about the past 8½ years, according to Harrington.

Under the sentencing agreement, Wetterman is considered guilty but mentally ill. The sentenced is to be executed in the Indiana Department of Correction.

April 17, 2014: WLFI-TV

Woman charged after dealing to undercover cops

Alexandra Kruczek

TIPPECANOE CO., Ind. (WLFI) – A Lafayette woman faces felony charges after undercover officers said she dealt heroin near a school.

Bonny Ahlrich, 52, faces two felony charges of possessing and dealing heroin in January. Documents reveal Ahlrich was identified as a possible source of the drug by a confidential informant.

An undercover officer also said the deal leading to the charges was within 1,000 feet of Miller Elementary, the Bauer Community Center and South Tipp Park.

April 17, 2014: WLFI-TV

Cleaning lady sentenced after stealing from employer



TIPPECANOE CO., Ind. (WLFI) – A Lafayette cleaning lady nets a five year sentence after she stole more than \$1,000 from her employer.

Tamara Snell, 44, pleaded guilty in March to one count of forgery and one count of theft.

A woman who hired Snell to clean her house called police after three checks were stolen from her home and cashed. Prosecutors said the stolen funds amounted to more than \$1,000.

Security video from a credit union showed Snell cashing the checks.

Snell was sentenced Wednesday to two years of community corrections and three years supervised probation.

April 17, 2014: WLFI-TV

Man sentenced to half a century for rape, molesting

TIPPECANOE CO., Ind. (WLFI) – A Lafayette man was sentenced to more than 50 years in prison for child molesting and rape.

Jeremy Stansberry, 36, pleaded guilty to the charges in March. Prosecutor Pat Harrington said some of the charges date back more than three years.

Stansberry was sentenced to 52 years behind bars and 4 years of probation. He will not be eligible for parole until he is 76 years old.

April 17, 2014: WLFI TV

Lafayette man sentenced for Regions Bank robbery

TIPPECANOE CO., Ind. (WLFI) – A Lafayette man is sentenced to 12 years behind bars for robbing a bank in the fall.

Kenneth Wetterman, 49, pleaded guilty to one count of robbery and being a habitual offender.

As News 18 previously reported, the robbery happened at the Regions Bank on Teal Road. Witnesses told police a man wearing a white mask and baseball hat went inside the bank and demanded money.

Witnesses were able to get the license plate number of the man's car. Shortly after the robbery, police spotted a car with matching license plate numbers.

Police arrested Wetterman. According to prosecutors, once he was in custody police heard Wetterman say "it was me."

Wetterman was sentenced to 12 years in prison Thursday.

April 16, 2014: WLFI-TV

Lafayette man faces charges after stabbing brother

LAFAYETTE, Ind. (WLFI) – A Lafayette man faces charges after prosecutors said he stabbed his brother multiple times in the face with a steak knife.

Khristopher Payne, 23, faces charges of battery and criminal recklessness. Prosecutors said one of Payne's siblings told police he exchanged words with one of his brothers before getting the knife and stabbing him in the face.

They said the victim and a juvenile who was in the room told police the same story.

Court documents reveal doctors used 11 stitches to close two stab wounds.

Prosecutors said Payne denied stabbing him, telling police his brother cut himself.

Lafayette woman faces multiple drug charges

Mikel Livingston, mlivingston@jconline.com

A Lafayette woman with a history of drug charges faces several more charges following an undercover investigation spanning several months.

Lena Gray, 47, on Tuesday was charged with seven counts, including three Class A felonies: dealing in cocaine and two charges of dealing in a narcotic drug.

She was also charged with possession of cocaine, a Class B felony, and the following Class C felonies: two charges of possession of a schedule III controlled substance and one charge of possession of a schedule IV controlled substance.

According to the affidavit of probable cause, the charges stem from the work of an undercover Lafayette police officer working with the help of a confidential informant.

On Nov. 12, 2013, the undercover officer was told by the informant that Gray could obtain cocaine. The officer made arrangements via the informant to meet Gray and purchase cocaine from her. The officer purchased a powdery substance that field-tested positive for cocaine.

Three days later, on Nov. 15, the informant told the officer that Gray was selling morphine and Norco tablets. The pair met Gray in the parking lot of a restaurant off Greenbush Street, where the officer purchased what was subsequently identified as morphine sulfate.

On Jan. 17, the officer contacted Gray to purchase more morphine tablets. Gray met the officer in a parking lot off Beck Lane but told the officer she had forgotten the tablets. The officer followed Gray to her home, where the transaction was completed.

On April 9, a Lafayette police officer initiated a traffic stop of a vehicle Gray was driving. During the stop, a K-9 officer arrived. The dog alerted the officers to the presence of narcotics in the vehicle.

A search turned up a bag of white residue. A plastic container with several types of pills was found in Gray's purse and a Suboxone strip was found in Gray's pocket.

Gray was convicted in 2006, 2004 and in 1999 on separate charges of acquisition of a controlled substance by fraud.

April 15, 2014: WLFI TV

Lafayette woman faces drug-related charges

Alexandra Kruczek

TIPPECANOE CO., Ind. (WLFI) – A Lafayette woman faces drug-related charges after prosecutors said she sold cocaine and morphine pills to an undercover officer.

Prosecutors said Lena Gray, 47, met with the officer twice in November of 2013 and once in January of this year.

Gray was stopped last week, according to prosecutors, and officers found prescription drugs for which Gray did not have a prescription.

Gray faces charges including dealing cocaine, dealing a narcotic drug and possession of a controlled substance.

April 15, 2014: WLFI TV

Five arrested in Lafayette meth lab bust

Krista Henery

LAFAYETTE, Ind. (WLFI) – Five people were arrested Tuesday morning, after the Lafayette Police Department busted a “one pot” meth lab.

Officers responded to 3854 Daisy Drive at about 1:45 a.m., after they received a call about suspicious activity.

When officers arrived, they smelled a strong odor commonly associated with the manufacturing of methamphetamine. That is when they found an active “one pot” meth lab inside the home.

Officers arrested 49-year-old Randy Long, 47-year-old Robert McKendrie, 24-year-old Sobhi Hindi and 25-year-old Justin Layne Logsdon on preliminary charges of conspiracy to manufacture methamphetamine.

Harvey Mossholder II, 25, was arrested for visiting a common nuisance.

The Indiana State Police Meth Suppression team was contacted, along with the Lafayette Fire Department.

April 15, 2014: WLFI TV

Man gets 10 years for drug charge



Brittany Tyner

TIPPECANOE CO., Ind. (WLFI) – A Lafayette man is sentenced to 10 years after pleading guilty to a drug charge.

Prosecutors said Matthew Shaw, 45, was stopped on Romig Street in Lafayette after he drove through a stop sign and turned without signaling last June. When Shaw was asked to get out of the car, a baggie with drugs fell on the ground. Prosecutors said Shaw admitted he bought heroin and was given cocaine during the deal.

Shaw was charged with two counts of possession of a narcotic and one count of maintaining a common nuisance. He pleaded guilty to one of the possession charges on a plea deal in January.

He was sentenced Monday to three years in prison, three years in community corrections and four years of probation.

April 14, 2014: TCPSN

Matthew B. Shaw, 45, of Lafayette, IN was sentenced today to 10 years for his guilty plea to Possession of a Narcotic – Heroin (B fel). Sentence breakdown: IDOC 3 years, TCCC 3 years (DOC, if rejected from community corrections), Supervised Probation 2 years, Unsupervised Probation 2 years.

Conditions / Programs / Special terms: Waiver of 4th amendment rights pertaining to search and seizure; Submit to drug screens at request of the Court, law enforcement officers, or TCCC; Substance abuse evaluation and treatment; Payment of standard fees and \$100 public defender fee; Rules of TCCC incorporated as conditions of probation; 3 NA/AA meetings per week during TCCC and probationary periods; No alcohol and no controlled substances without prescription; Must advise all health care providers of addiction to heroin; The Court recommended that he receive substance abuse treatment while at the DOC.

April 10, 2014: WLFI TV

Sanchez found guilty of voluntary manslaughter



Alexandra Kruczek / Holly Campbell

TIPPECANOE CO., Ind. (WLFI) – As of late Thursday afternoon, the jury was sent into deliberation and came out with a verdict on the Tippecanoe County trial of 33-year-old Misael Sanchez.

Sanchez was found guilty of voluntary manslaughter, which has a sentence ranging from six to 20 years in prison. His sentencing is scheduled for next month.

Thursday morning, the jury finished watching a taped police interview where Sanchez explained how he got \$10,000 out of the bank, obtained important documents, picked up his children and tried fleeing to Mexico.

Testimony wrapped up around noon on Thursday. Closing arguments, which began at 1 p.m., concluded around 2:30 p.m.

The jury deliberated between two charges murder or voluntary manslaughter. About three hours later, the jury came to a decision. The jury found Sanchez guilty of voluntary manslaughter, which holds a lesser sentence time. If they would have found him guilty of murder, Sanchez would have faced 45 to 65 years behind bars.

STATE:

In the state's final argument, prosecutors said Sanchez threatened to kill Marisol Arze-Lujan. In his video interview, he said Arze-Lujan told him he "didn't have the balls to kill her." Prosecutors said the only reason she would respond with that is if Sanchez threatened to kill her.

Prosecutors also said sudden heat isn't a factor because the argument between Sanchez and Arze-Lujan was a routine argument between a couple.

In his statement, Sanchez said during the argument Arze-Lujan was mad because he had been out drinking the night before. He said she was telling him she was going to cheat on him again, but prosecutors said that's not true.

Prosecutors said it was impossible for her to be cheating because she shared a phone with Sanchez and didn't have time between work and her three children.

Prosecutors also said this didn't happen under sudden heat because he strangled her for 16 minutes and then made rational decisions — trying to not wake up the baby, being worried about the blood, and dressing her after she had died.

Prosecutors said bottom line, he told her he was going to kill her and he did it.

DEFENSE:

The defense said they are not trying to justify what he did. It was a crime. When it comes to the evidence the defense said everything Sanchez told police was consistent with the evidence.

The defense pointed out areas of areas of the investigation that may question the credibility of some of the testimonies. They also question the integrity of the case and asked the jury to evaluate those points as they consider the evidence and come up with a verdict.

When it comes to how long Sanchez choked Arze-Lujan, the defense said they know he said he did it for about 16 minutes, but they said that's just not possible to hold someone up by their neck when they are unconscious for that long.

He also pointed out that Detective Herb Robinson agreed that anger got the best of him the day he killed Arze-Lujan.

April 10, 2014: WLFI TV

Man sentenced to jail time for drug-related charges



Spencer Frady

TIPPECANOE CO., Ind. (WLFI) – A West Lafayette man gets an eight-year sentence for cocaine possession and dealing marijuana.

Prosecutors said Charles Simmons pleaded guilty to those charges as well as maintaining a common nuisance.

They say police went to Simmons' home last December after he reported being robbed. They say officers discovered Simmons had tried to sell marijuana earlier that night, but an argument broke out instead.

Prosecutors said police found marijuana, cocaine and paraphernalia in the home.

Simmons will spend three years behind bars and five on probation.

April 10, 2014: WLFI TV

Homeless man sentenced for molestation



Spencer Frady

TIPPECANOE CO., Ind. (WLFI) – A homeless man, who pleaded guilty to molesting two boys, will be 93 years old before he is eligible for parole.

Dan Huntress, 52, was convicted of two felony counts of child molesting. Court documents state he was staying with a co-worker last year when he molested two boys, ages 10 and 11.

Huntress's criminal history includes two sex crimes and alcohol violations.

He was sentenced to 52 years in prison Thursday

April 10, 2014: WLFI TV

Testimony wraps up in Sanchez trial

Alexandra Kruczek / Holly Campbell

TIPPECANOE CO., Ind. (WLFI) – Day three continues in the Tippecanoe County trial of 33-year-old Misael Sanchez.

Thursday morning, the jury finished watching a taped police interview where Sanchez explained how he got \$10,000 out of the bank, obtained important documents, picked up his children and tried fleeing to Mexico.

Testimony wrapped up around noon Thursday. Final statements will begin around 1 p.m.

News 18's Holly Campbell will have the full recap with live reports from the Tippecanoe County Courthouse on News 18 at Five and Six.

Sanchez homicide trial: Family kept killing a secret; jury may get case Thursday

Ron Wilkins

Marisol Arze-Lujan most likely died from bleeding in the lining of the brain caused by being shaken while being strangled, forensic pathologist E. Allen Griggs testified Wednesday.

The person strangling Arze-Lujan was the father of her three children, Isael Sanchez, according to the prosecutor and Sanchez's attorneys.

"There was a large hemorrhage over the top of the brain. As a result of that, the brain had swollen," Griggs said, indicating that this caused the 25-year-old woman's death on March 21, 2013. "It (the hemorrhage) was large. It covered ... the entire top of the brain."

Sanchez and Arze-Lujan argued inside their apartment in the 3700 block of McCarty Lane on the evening of March 20, 2013. Sanchez left that night to go drinking, and returned home drunk, Sanchez's attorney and the deputy prosecutor said in Tuesday's opening statements. The argument resumed the next morning, after the couple's three children were out of the apartment on the way to school.

Neither the defense nor prosecutors disputed that Sanchez killed his girlfriend, and both sides appeared to agree on how. The question is whether Sanchez's actions rise to the charge of murder, as the state charged, or whether he's guilty of voluntary manslaughter, which is Sanchez's attorney's position. For jurors to convict Sanchez of voluntary manslaughter, the defense team will need to persuade them that Sanchez was provoked into a sudden rage, during which he snapped.

There were other signs of asphyxiation. Freckle-size bleeding in the neck, the lungs and her eyes all were signs that something or someone had cut off Arze-Lujan's supply of oxygen, and the damage to her neck muscles, her thyroid and voicebox are common in strangulations, Griggs testified.

Additionally, her lungs had freckle-size bleeding spots and were hyperinflated, another sign of suffocation, Griggs said.

Sanchez is suspected of killing Arze-Lujan in the morning. About noon, Sanchez's family and close friends gathered — a few apartments from where 25-year-old Arze-Lujan's body lay slumped over a bathtub — to ask him what happened.

"He answered by crying," Sanchez's cousin, Israel Sanchez, testified Wednesday morning through an interpreter. "He didn't answer. He just cried."

The afternoon of the homicide, Sanchez withdrew \$10,000 from a bank account, withdrew his children early from school, then met with relatives and drove to Arkansas, where he was caught the next day.

During the morning testimony, prosecutors asked three witnesses, all Sanchez's friends or family who were at that meeting, if they called police. None had.

After discovering Arze-Lujan's body, police talked with several of Sanchez's family members. None told police they were aware of the killing before police made the discovery late March 21, 2013, after one relative called to request that police check on Arze-Lujan's well-being.

When the trial resumes Thursday morning, prosecutors will play a two-hour video of Sanchez a telling Lafayette police Detective Herb Robinson what happened and how he killed Arze-Lujan.

Defense attorney Matt Sandy told the court that the jury likely will be able to begin deliberations Thursday.

April 9, 2014: WLFI TV

Police interview shown in Sanchez trial

Holly Campbell

TIPPECANOE CO., Ind. (WLFI) – Wednesday in the trial against 33-year-old Misael Sanchez, the jury heard from a lot of people including police officers, detectives and family members.

His cousins Javier and Israel Sanchez both took the stand.

Israel said he heard about Marisol Arze-Lujan's death through a phone call while he was at work. He said some of the family members organized a meeting at another family member's house later that day with Misael. Israel said when they asked Misael what happened he just cried and did not respond.

Javier said he went with Misael to Applied Ballistics to shoot guns the day before Javier found out Marisol was killed. Javier said he was not at the family meeting when they discussed Marisol's death, but showed up afterwards. He said Misael gave him money at that family meeting. Javier said he did not know where Misael was going after the meeting but assumed he was going to Mexico.

Crime scene investigators also took the stand today and walked the jury through the process they took in order to collect evidence from the apartment. Photos and videos from inside the apartment where Marisol's body was found were shown in court.

The jury also heard from Sanchez himself in a recorded police interview with Lafayette Police Detective Herb Robinson and an interpreter while Sanchez was in custody in Arkansas. In that interview, Robinson asked Sanchez why they were all there and Sanchez said it was because he killed his wife, referring to his girlfriend of 10 years Arze-Lujan.

In that video Sanchez described what happened the day he killed his girlfriend. He said she was mad at him because he has been drinking the night before. Sanchez said she started hitting him and yelling at him. That's when he said he grabbed her around the neck for several minutes until she was unresponsive.

The trial will continue Thursday morning.

April 9, 2014: WLFI TV

Traffic stop leads to drug-related charges

TIPPECANOE CO., Ind. (WLFI) – A traffic stop leads to drug-related charges for two Lafayette women.

Prosecutors said officers stopped Sherri Bucher, 50, and Amanda McLaughlin, 30, both of Lafayette on Morton Street Monday.

They said McLaughlin was taken into custody on warrants. Officers found on her person Adderall, Promethazine, a syringe and two pipes. Prosecutors say police found a substance that tested positive for methamphetamine in the car.

They said Bucher was placed in a squad car. Police then found four Adderall pills where she was sitting and what looked to be a crushed pill on the floorboard.

Bucher faces controlled substance and meth possession charges as well as maintaining a common nuisance and habitual substance offender charges.

McLaughlin faces possession of a controlled substance, syringe, legend drug and paraphernalia charges.

April 8, 2014: WLFI TV

Trial begins for Lafayette man accused of murder

Alexandra Kruczek / Holly Campbell

TIPPECANOE CO., Ind. (WLFI) – Jury selection is complete for the trial of a Lafayette man accused of murdering the mother of his children last year

Misael Sanchez, 33, is accused of murdering Marisol Arze-Lujan, 25, who was found dead in her Lafayette apartment on March 21, 2013. Jury selection completed at 1 p.m. Opening statements started around 2:30 Thursday afternoon.

In the opening statements, after sharing details about what they said happened the night of the murder, prosecutors asked the jury to return a guilty verdict for murder.

In the defense's opening statements Sanchez's attorneys said the evidence the state shows will show Sanchez killed Arze-Lujan. However, the defense attorney's said it happened under sudden heat. Sudden heat distinguishes the lesser charge of voluntary manslaughter from murder. Sudden heat is characterized by rage, terror or resentment that obscures the reason of an ordinary person.

The state must prove beyond a reasonable doubt that the killing did not happen under sudden heat. If the jury finds it did happen under sudden heat, Sanchez will be found guilty of voluntary manslaughter and not murder.

After opening statements, the jury heard from the first officer on the scene and a detective working the case.

The officer said he went to the apartment complex to follow up a call of an injured woman inside one of the buildings. He said when he banged on the door it opened slightly. That's when he said he went inside the apartment to see if anyone was hurt. The officer said he found Arze-Lujan's body slouched over the bathtub.

The detective who took the stand Thursday afternoon explained how Sanchez was located in Arkansas. He said once officers got his cell phone number from neighbors and family members they were able to send out a signal to "ping" it. He said that the ping indicated Sanchez was in Arkansas. He was soon located along with his three children.

As News 18 previously reported, autopsy results show Arze-Lujan died from trauma to her brain. Police said they got a tip that Sanchez was responsible and had left the state.

Captain Kurt Wolf told News 18 in March 2013 that an investigation began into Sanchez immediately following the tip.

"We did some entry into the national crime computer that we were looking for the three children and him, and that's when they came across him in Arkansas," Wolf said.

Sanchez and the couple's three children were found in Clark County, Ark. He was later arrested on preliminary murder charges. His trial began in Tippecanoe County Tuesday.

Sanchez has been referred to as both Misael and Isael in court documents and in the courtroom.

April 8, 2014: WLFI TV

Nine more witnesses added in Cousins case

Kyle Bloyd

TIPPECANOE CO., Ind. (WLFI) – Nine more people have been added to list of potential witnesses in the upcoming Cody Cousins trial.

Court documents filed Monday in Tippecanoe County listed nine more witnesses, which now lists over 100 people.

Prosecutors filed discovery papers in February, listing 126 potential witnesses, including Purdue students and police.

In March, the attorney for Cousins listed Ernest Cousins and Wendy Melancon, the parents of Cousins, as potential witnesses.

Also in the new documents, the state may offer the following as exhibits:

Writing assignments tendered by Cousins as class work

Emails written by Cousins

Forensic images of electronic media previously identified

Cousins is charged for the murder of Andrew Boldt on Purdue's campus in January. His trial is currently set to begin on Oct. 6.

Related Court Document Links:

Court documents show Nine more Witnesses Added to List

Prosecutors released the Defendant's Witness and Exhibit List

Prosecutors filed Discovery Papers listing 126 possible witnesses

Tippecanoe County unsealed search warrant records in the case, Search Warrant and Search Warrant Return

April 4, 2014: WLFI TV

Jury finds Dimmitt guilty on 3 of 4 counts in 2012 bar fight

By Alexandra Kruczek / Holly Campbell

TIPPECANOE CO, Ind. (WLFI) – A jury found Brent Dimmitt, 37, guilty of battery committed resulting in serious bodily injury, battery, and gang activity Friday in connection with a 2012 Lafayette bar fight which injured David Widner. He was found not guilty on a separate battery charge. The jury was unable to reach a verdict on the

charge of aggravated battery. That charge was dismissed. After the verdicts were read, Dimmitt pleaded guilty to being a habitual offender.

A sentencing date will be scheduled on Monday. Prosecutors said Dimmitt faces 6-24 years in prison.

The jury deliberated for more than five hours after final arguments in the case wrapped up around 1:30 p.m. Friday.

Prosecutors argued that the Clarks Hill man is guilty of all five charges, including battery and battery resulting in serious bodily injury. The defense said that the witnesses' accounts were not consistent pinning Dimmitt as the person who injured Widner, thus not providing evidence that proved it beyond a reasonable doubt.

Over the course of the trial, the jury heard from several witnesses who were at the Champs bar the night of the fight. Widner also took the stand. He stated he remembers seeing Dimmitt's face right before he got punched.

Widner suffered a traumatic brain injury.

Dimmitt did not take the stand during the trial.

April 4, 2014: WLFI TV

Trial date set for man involved in fatal fire

TIPPECANOE CO., Ind. (WLFI) – The trial date is set for a man accused of setting a fire that killed a 6-year-old girl in November.

Ryan Moynagh, 33, is scheduled to stand trial on Oct. 14, 2014. He faces felony charges, including murder and arson, in connection with a house fire that killed Katelyn Lane and injured David Trueblood, 53.

Prosecutors said Moynagh has admitted to setting two papers on fire with a lighter. Investigators identified three points of origin of the fire, including two in the bedroom where Katelyn was found.

On Wednesday, prosecutors announced their intention to seek a life sentence without parole.

A status hearing is set for July 14, 2014.

April 3, 2014: Lafayette Journal and Courier

Police: Landlord battered by tenant who was making meth

Written by Chris Morisse Vizza

A Lafayette man is accused of dealing methamphetamine and battering his landlord after the landlord reportedly discovered the tenant making meth inside his rental property, according to documents filed in Tippecanoe Superior Court 1.

Daniel Ryan O'Harra, 32, faces four drug-related counts and one count of battery in relation to a March 29 incident at 1023 Hartford St.

Landlord Andy Tetzloff told police he went to do some work in the cellar and found the door unlocked and a light on.

Tetzloff said he walked in and saw several items on the floor; then O'Harra stepped from behind a water heater, holding a 2-liter bottle with liquid in it. Tetzloff told investigators he went to dial 911, and O'Harra knocked him down, injuring his knee, hand and shoulder.

O'Harra turned up later in the day when an acquaintance asked Lafayette police to remove O'Harra from the acquaintance's apartment.

The Indiana State Police Meth Suppression Team was called in, and found the 2-liter bottle, several chemicals and other materials used to manufacture the drug.

O'Harra has previous drug convictions, including a 2005 guilty plea to possessing methamphetamine and a 2010 guilty plea to possessing marijuana and criminal confinement, according to court records.

April 3, 2014: WLFI TV

Victim takes the stand in bar fight trial

By Holly Campbell

TIPPECANOE CO., Ind. (WLFI) - The court heard from David Widner Thursday. The man who was seriously injured in a 2012 bar fight took the stand.

Widner told the court that Brent Dimmitt, 37, was making fun of someone who was in his group while inside the bar. Widner then said that he and his group of friends decided to leave shortly after.

According to Widner, he walked out of the bar along with his friends and remembers Dimmitt was trying to pick a fight with him. Widner said he remembers seeing Dimmitt walk away, but then remembers seeing a glimpse of Dimmitt's face and felt a fist hit his face.

The next thing Widner remembered was waking up in the hospital. He said it was some time after the incident because he was no longer in ICU.

Widner's current condition was also discussed.

Widner said he has lost his sense of smell and most of his sense of taste. He said he has weakness in the left side of his body and short-term memory loss. Widner said he suffers from depression and anxiety and is unable to hold a job. He is still currently undergoing physical and occupational therapy.

Widner said his life has completely changed since his injury.

The court also heard from an investigator specializing in gangs. The investigator identified tattoos on Dimmitt's body that he said are associated with the gang Rebel Cause.

The trial is expected to wrap up Friday afternoon.

April 3, 2014: Pharos-Tribune

Prosecutors seek life in prison in arson death

LAFAYETTE (AP) — Prosecutors are seeking life in prison without parole for a man accused of starting a central Indiana house fire that killed a 6-year-old girl.

Tippecanoe County prosecutors filed the request Wednesday, citing as aggravating factors that the death occurred during the commission of an arson and with a victim younger than age 12.

Thirty-three-year-old Ryan M. Moynagh faces a murder charge in the Nov. 9 death of Katelyn Sue Lane. He hasn't been tried or convicted in that case and faces a Friday status hearing.

The Journal & Courier reports Katelyn suffered third-degree burns and smoke inhalation following the fire at a house near Lafayette. She was later pronounced dead at a Lafayette hospital.

A message seeking comment from defense attorney Michael Trueblood wasn't immediately returned Thursday.

April 2, 2014: Lafayette Journal and Courier

Filing: Lafayette girl's death in arson justifies life behind bars

Written by David Smith

A man accused of setting a fire that killed a 6-year-old Lafayette girl in November would face life without parole under a sentencing request filed Wednesday by the Tippecanoe County prosecutor.

Ryan M. Moynagh, 33, is accused of murder in the Nov. 9 death of Katelyn Sue Lane. He has not been tried or convicted. A status hearing on his case is scheduled for Friday morning in Tippecanoe Superior Court 1.

Prosecutor Pat Harrington filed the request for the sentence, citing two aggravating circumstances: the death occurred during the commission of the crime of arson, and the victim was less than 12 years of age.

According to court documents, firefighters responded to the house fire at 2726 Schuyler Ave. at 12:39 a.m. that November Saturday. When they arrived, they saw Moynagh standing in the front yard.

Another man, 53-year-old David Trueblood, with whom Moynagh lived, was found lying unconscious in the living room with a fire extinguisher next to his hand, according to police.

Police found Katelyn lying in a bed in the northwest bedroom. According to court documents, she suffered third-degree burns and smoke inhalation and died as a result of the fire.

Katelyn was taken to IU Health Arnett, where she was later pronounced dead. Trueblood was taken to St. Elizabeth East for burns and smoke inhalation and was released the next day.

Police said the girl's mother, Mindy Kirby, had left Katelyn in the care of Trueblood, a family friend, on Friday just hours before the fire.

Court documents do not cite a motive for Moynagh's alleged actions.

April 2, 2014: WLFITV

Cocaine dealer gets 30 years



TIPPECANOE CO., Ind. (WLFI) – A man was sentenced to three decades behind bars after pleading guilty to dealing cocaine.

As News 18 previously reported, 29-year-old Antonio Tutson sold the drug to undercover officers three different times in December 2012 and January 2013.

Tippecanoe County Prosecutor Pat Harrington said Tutson pleaded guilty to dealing cocaine near a school, possession of a firearm by a serious violent felon and being a habitual substance offender.

Harrington said Tutson was sentenced to 30 years in prison and five years probation.

April 2, 2014: WLFITV

Court seeks life sentence for man involved in fatal fire



By Brittany Tyner

TIPPECANOE CO., Ind. (WLFI) – The county prosecutor is seeking a life sentence without parole for a man accused of setting a fire that killed a six-year-old girl in November.

Tippecanoe County Prosecutor said Ryan Moynagh, 33, faces felony charges. Those charges include murder and arson in connection with a house fire that killed Katelyn Lane and injured 53-year-old David Trueblood.

Harrington said Moynagh has admitted to setting two papers on fire with a lighter. Investigators identified three points of origin of the fire, including two in the bedroom where Katelyn was found.

Katelyn's mother Mindy Kirby told News 18 that nothing will ever bring her daughter back, but the decision to seek a life sentence is a step in the right direction.

April 2, 2014: WLFITV

Victim's friends, doctors take stand in bar fight trial

By Alexandra Kruczek / Holly Campbell

TIPPECANOE CO., Ind. (WLFI) – More testimony from physicians filled the courtroom as the trial of 37-year-old Brent Dimmitt continued in Tippecanoe County Wednesday.

Doctors who treated the victim, David Widner, took the stand. They described his injuries as life threatening. Physicians confirm Widner had a skull fracture, hematoma and several other injuries.

Four people who were at the bar with Widner also took the stand Wednesday. All of the people told the court that Dimmitt approached them in the bar and showed them his tattoos and told them he was the president of a gang called Rebel Cause.

Each person who took that stand had a slightly different story about how a fight eventually broke out, but all identified Dimmitt as being involved. Two people said they saw Dimmitt kicking Widner while he was unconscious on the ground. Another person said he saw Dimmitt punching another person. Others said they could not see who was hitting Widner because the fight was so chaotic.

The trial will continue Thursday morning around 8:30.

April 2, 2014: WLFITV

Man who broke through WL liquor store roof sentenced



TIPPECANOE CO., Ind. (WLFI) – Duane Lowery, 34, was sentenced to four years in prison after breaking into a West Lafayette liquor store through the roof.

Tippecanoe County Prosecutor Pat Harrington said Lowery pleaded guilty to burglary.

As News 18 has already reported Lowery did thousands of dollars in damage when he entered the Village Bottle Shop on Howard Avenue through the ventilation unit in August. Police found Lowery leaving through the front door with several bottles of alcohol.

April 1, 2014: WLFITV

Bar fight suspect goes to trial



By Alexandra Kruczek / Holly Campbell

TIPPECANOE CO., Ind. (WLFI) – A jury trial has begun for a Clarks Hill man involved in fight outside a Lafayette bar that left one man in ICU.

Jury selection has been made Tuesday for Brent Dimmitt, 37, of Clarks Hill. After the selection the court heard testimony from an officer who responded to the fight.

According to court documents, Dimmitt was involved in a fight outside Champs Bar on Earl Avenue in Lafayette on Friday, Dec. 28, 2012. That fight landed another man in the hospital with multiple fractures to the skull and internal head injuries.

A witness told police Dimmitt approached the victim in the bar before attacking him in the parking lot.

Dimmitt was arrested following the incident in 2012. He was charged with battery and aggravated battery.

The trial is expected to wrap up by Friday.

March 31, 2014: WLFITV

Attempted robber near WLPD nets sentence of 25 years



By Dan Klein

WEST LAFAYETTE, Ind. (WLFI) – A Lafayette man is sentenced to 25 years in prison after he tried to rob a West Lafayette business last spring and was caught near police headquarters.

Tippecanoe County Prosecutor Pat Harrington says 45-year-old Dwayne Hoard tried to rob The Sage's Shoppe on Sagamore Parkway on April 13, 2013 with a knife. But he ran off, when the owner yelled for other people — who were in the back of the store — to come help.

Hoard ran off without any money and was arrested minutes later in a nearby parking lot, near West Lafayette police headquarters.

He pleaded guilty in January to attempted armed robbery and being a habitual offender.

Hoard was sentenced to 25 years in prison.

March 28, 2014: Lafayette Journal and Courier

Man charged for child solicitation

Written by Mikel Livingston

A Lafayette man has been charged with child solicitation after allegedly attempting to arrange a sexual encounter with who he thought was a 14-year-old girl that he met online.

Christopher K. Reese, 23, has been charged with child solicitation, a Class C felony, and possession of marijuana, a Class A misdemeanor.

According to the affidavit of probable cause filed Friday by the Tippecanoe County Prosecutor's office, Reese earlier this month posted an Internet advertisement stating "sexy young hung male looking for a female who loves popping pills and wants to get me some head."

Lafayette Police Sgt. Brian Gossard responded to the advertisement. The two conversed several times via email between March 23 and 26.

On March 23, during the course of those emails, Gossard stated he was a 14-year-old girl.

Reese allegedly responded, “Wow, you are really young.”

The conversations continued, the affidavit says, with Reese making several explicit sexual advances toward the “girl.” At one point, Reese allegedly sent a photograph of a man’s erect penis.

About 9:30 a.m. March 26, the two arranged to meet at a Big Lots on Teal Road. Reese said he would be driving a silver Expedition.

At 10:15 a.m., Detective Natalie Lovett of the Lafayette Police Department saw a vehicle matching that description pull into the Big Lots parking lot. Lafayette Police Officer Charlie Williams then made contact with the driver, who identified himself as Christopher Reese.

According to the affidavit, Reese “admitted that he was in the parking lot off Teal Road to meet a female that he initially met on the Internet, and that he was going to hang out and smoke some marijuana with the female. Reese denied knowing how old the female was, but indicated that he doesn’t usually check ages when replying to the emails that he gets.”

Police searched Reese’s vehicle, discovering a cigarette pack containing a joint that a field test showed was marijuana. Police secured the joint, along with an HP laptop found inside the vehicle.

Reese is being held in the Tippecanoe County Jail on a \$5,000 surety and \$500 cash bond.

March 24, 2014: Lafayette Journal and Courier

Molester of 7-year-old girl gets 30-year sentence

Written by Ron Wilkins

Fifty-one-year-old Cornellious Brown received a 30-year sentence Monday for molesting a 7-year-old girl.

Brown, who has lived in Lafayette for about two years, recently pleaded guilty to a Class A felony charge of child molesting. With Brown’s prior convictions from Cook County, Ill., of battery, possession of a controlled substance, domestic battery, battery and retail theft, there were no mitigators found to possibly suspend part of Brown’s sentence, according to a sentencing brief.

Additionally, he violated a position of trust when he molested the child.

Brown will have to serve 85 percent of the 30 year sentence — more than 25 years — before he can become eligible for parole, instead of the one-day credit for each day incarcerated, according to the sentencing brief. He will be 76 years old when he becomes eligible for release.

March 24, 2014: WLFITV

Man sentenced for child molesting



By Alexandra Kruczek

TIPPECANOE CO., Ind. (WLFI) – A man will spend decades behind bars after pleading guilty to child molesting last month.

Cornellious Brown, 51, currently of Lafayette was sentenced to 30 years in prison. Tippecanoe County Prosecutor Pat Harrington said Brown tried to have sex with an 8-year-old girl multiple times, the most recent incident being in May 2013.

During interviews, the girl was able to identify Brown for police.

Harrington said Brown initially denied the allegations, but later admitted to several inappropriate interactions with the girl.

March 21, 2014: WLFITV

Lafayette man charged in three armed robberies

By Alexandra Kruczek

TIPPECANOE CO., Ind. (WLFI) – A Lafayette man faces multiple criminal charges in connection to three Lafayette armed robberies.

Prosecutors said Ronald Longer, 19, faces six felonies and a misdemeanor, including three counts of robbery while armed with a deadly weapon and three counts of theft.

As News 18 reported Thursday, police were called to two armed robberies within fifteen minutes of each other. The first robbery occurred at the BP gas station, at Teal Road and 22nd Street, and the second at the Circle K gas station, at Ferry Street and Earl Avenue.

Longer was arrested during a traffic stop shortly following the second robbery. He was taken to Tippecanoe County Jail.

Longer admitted to both robberies, as well as last week's Village Pantry robbery at Brady Lane and 18th Street, according to court documents.

March 21, 2014: Lafayette Journal and Courier

Case against pastor charged with spying on women's restroom will go forward High court exploitation ruling may speed case against Lafayette pastor

Written By David Smith

The pending criminal case against a former Lafayette pastor accused of hiding video cameras in a women's restroom may proceed now that the Indiana Supreme Court has issued a ruling in a separate case.

Robert Lyzenga, former pastor of Sunrise Christian Reformed Church in Lafayette, is charged in Tippecanoe Superior Court 1 with five counts of child exploitation, a Class C felony, and five counts of voyeurism by means of a camera, a Class D felony. He was arrested May 10, 2012, suspended from church duties and later fired.

Each count represents a different alleged victim: five female juveniles, ages 5 to 16, and five women. Child exploitation is the more serious of the charges, being a Class C felony. Voyeurism is a Class D felony.

Lyzenga is due for trial June 3. The trial date has been continued several times while both sides awaited a Supreme Court ruling in *State v. David Delagrang*, a Fort Wayne man accused of sexually exploiting girls by taking upskirt videos at Castleton Square Mall in Indianapolis.

In that case, a divided appellate court set aside Delagrang's lower court conviction of attempted child exploitation on grounds the victims' genitals were never exposed.

The lower court ruled 2-1 that "... in order for Delagrang's attempt to commit child exploitation, each child must have been exhibiting her uncovered genitals with the intent to satisfy sexual desires."

In its unanimous ruling, issued Tuesday, the high court overturned the appellate court's decision. The high court said, in essence, that jurors could reasonably infer that capturing images of the victims' exposed genital areas was the defendant's intent, whether the genitals were exposed or not, therefore constituting "attempted" child exploitation.

"... Can a jury infer that someone taking upskirt photographs of women and girls by means of a concealed shoe camera does so in the hope that some of them will not be wearing undergarments? We say yes."

In Lyzenga's case, Lafayette attorney Kent Moore sought to have the charges of child exploitation dismissed, citing the appellate court's ruling in *Delagrang*.

Tippecanoe Superior Court 1 Judge Randy Williams denied Moore's motion.

In his ruling Williams said, "The defendant argues, in part, that the victims lacked knowledge that a hidden camera was photographing them and that the child exploitation statute requires that the child be exhibiting his or her uncovered genitals with the intent to satisfy sexual desires."

While the high court opinion didn't directly address that line of reasoning, the justices sided with dissenting Appeals Judge Edward Najam Jr., who noted that his colleague's interpretation undermined the goal of the statute, "which is to criminalize the exploitation of child victims."

'Definite guidance'

Rather than file an appeal of Williams' decision, Moore has been waiting to see what the Supreme Court decided in the *Delagrang* case.

Moore said Thursday that he's not yet had a chance to discuss the Supreme Court's ruling with his client.

While there are many differences between the *Delagrang* case and the case against Lyzenga, the appellate court's ruling cast considerable doubt as to the standard interpretation of the exploitation statute up to that point, Tippecanoe County Prosecutor Pat Harrington said Thursday.

"*Delagrang* was the first time the appellate court interpreted the statute in that manner," Harrington said. "What the Supreme Court did, they reaffirmed ... the intent of that statute."

"We now have definite guidance by the Supreme Court, so we can proceed with our case."

The charges against Lyzenga stemmed from an investigation that began on April 22, 2012, when a church member called the Tippecanoe County Sheriff's Office to report finding a camera inside an air freshener that had fallen inside a restroom stall.

Detectives obtained images that included two women and a minor female using the restroom, along with images of a church office that Lyzenga had been using.

That led to a search of Lyzenga's home, where detectives said they found more videos and photo stills from the videos on a laptop and external hard drives, according to the affidavit of probable cause.

March 21, 2014: Lafayette Journal and Courier

Robbery suspect faces 6 felonies, claims crack addiction

Written By Ron Wilkins

Nineteen-year-old Ronald L. Longer of Lafayette robbed two gas stations Thursday and a Village Pantry on March 14 to feed his crack cocaine addiction, according to a probable cause affidavit filed Friday.

Longer is charged in Tippecanoe Superior 1 with three counts of armed robbery, Class B felonies; three counts of theft, Class D felonies; and one count of carrying a handgun without being licensed, a Class A misdemeanor.

Police responding to a second robbery early Thursday noticed Longer matched the description of the suspect, Lafayette police said. They stopped and arrested Longer early Thursday on Douglas Street just south of South Street, according to police.

When police asked him why he robbed the two gas stations, he said he was addicted to crack cocaine, according to the affidavit.

Longer told police he robbed the BP/Amoco station at 2210 Teal Road about 3:25 a.m. Thursday, and he then robbed the Circle K gas station at Ferry Street and Earl Avenue about 20 minutes later, according to the probable cause affidavit. He also admitted to robbing the Village Pantry at 18th and Brady Lane about 1:05 a.m. March 14.

Longer knew details about the robberies, and clerks from Thursday morning's robberies identified Longer as the man who robbed them at gunpoint, according to the affidavit.

According to police, Longer is on probation out of Vermilion County, Ill., for reckless discharge of a firearm in March 2013.

March 21, 2014: WLFITV

Drug charges filed against Lafayette man

By Spencer Frady

LAFAYETTE, Ind. (WLFI) – A traffic stop in Lafayette ended with drug-related charges for the man behind the wheel.

In December of 2013, prosecutors said Jeremy Little, 37, of Lafayette was stopped on Adams Street after making several turns without using signals or headlights.

According to court documents, police smelled marijuana or the synthetic drug "spice" after approaching the car. Prosecutors said Little admitted to police that he had smoked a "joint."

Police then obtained a search warrant for the vehicle and found amphetamines and more than 160 grams of “spice.”

Prosecutors said police also found that Little’s license had been revoked in 2000.

Little is now facing charges including dealing and possession of a synthetic drug, possession of a schedule II controlled substance and operating a vehicle after driving privileges were forfeited for life.

March 21, 2014: WLFITV

Florida man charged after stealing items from WL hotel

By Alexandra Kruczek

TIPPECANOE CO., Ind. (WLFI) – A Florida man has been charged with multiple felonies after police said he stole items from the Hilton Garden Inn in Lafayette.

According to court documents, officers responded to the Hilton Garden Inn on E. State Street in West Lafayette Tuesday in reference to a smoke alarm. Officers went to the sixth floor on a report of a “smell of fire.” Due to standing water, the room was quickly located.

Officers entered the room to find Christopher Grooms, 30, of Florida exiting the room with his belongings. Officers found a broken sprinkler head in the room.

The hotel manager, Christy Kuntz, advised police that Grooms had previously checked into a different room. However, he was moved to a second room after “he complained that several items were missing” from the first room. Kuntz said there was significant damage to the hotel as a result of the sprinkler system being activated.

Officers spoke with Grooms outside the hotel. Upon further investigation of his belongings, officers located several items that belonged to the hotel, including a pillow, blanket and coffee maker. Grooms was arrested for theft at that time.

In addition to hotel-owned items, officers said they found two glass pipes, a bag of marijuana, a loaded silver and black Smith and Wesson revolver and more rounds of ammunition.

Grooms was transported to Tippecanoe County Jail for possession of a handgun without a permit, theft, possession of stolen property and possession charges for marijuana and paraphernalia.

March 21, 2014: Lafayette Journal and Courier

Woman seen staggering down road faces drug charges

A woman who police say was staggering as she walked in the driving lanes of Main Street in Dayton faces four felony drug charges in Tippecanoe Circuit Court.

Amber N. Bonty, 25, of Evansville is charged with possession of methamphetamine, a Class B felony; possession of a schedule III controlled substance, a Class C felony; and two counts of possession of a schedule IV controlled substance, Class C felonies.

Sheriff’s Deputy Ron Hainje on March 15 saw Bonty and a man walking in both lanes of Main Street, and Bonty appeared to fall down at times, according to court documents.

Another deputy and a Dayton police officer arrived, and questioned the two.

Court records state Bonty consented to allow a deputy to look through her purse, where the officer found a coin purse with individually wrapped baggies containing substances that tested positive for methamphetamine.

Her purse also contained several types of pills which were later identified as hydrocodone, clonazepam and Xanax, according to court documents.

The officers said Bonty was within 1,000 feet of Dayton Elementary School, and children were present at the time, which increases the severity of the crime.

She also faces misdemeanor counts of possession of marijuana and public intoxication.

Bonty is being held in Tippecanoe County Jail, where bond is set at \$12,500 surety or \$1,250 cash.

March 17, 2014: WLFITV

Man gets prison time for meth possession



TIPPECANOE CO., Ind. (WLFI) – A Lafayette man is sentenced to two years in prison and two years community corrections for possessing methamphetamine.

Tippecanoe County Prosecutor Pat Harrington said Joshua Duncan, 25, pleaded guilty to several charges including meth possession and being a habitual substance offender.

Harrington said police arrested Duncan last April after receiving a report of someone trying to make meth on McCarty Lane. Police found Duncan with baggies of meth and spice.

At that time, News 18 reported Duncan admitted he'd been smoking the meth with a couple other people.

March 17, 2014: WLFITV

Men sentenced for gas station burglaries



TIPPECANOE CO., Ind. (WLFI) – A man is sentenced to four years in prison for his role in a West Lafayette gas station burglary last summer.

Tippecanoe County Prosecutor Pat Harrington said Len Myers, 23, pleaded guilty to six charges, including two counts of burglary, two counts of theft and being a habitual offender.

Last July, Harrington said Myers and Trevor Slone worked together to steal money from the GoLo gas station on Northwestern Avenue in West Lafayette. Harrington said Myers also admitted he acted alone during a burglary at the same gas station last April.

Myers was also sentenced to two years of community corrections and six years probation.

March 14, 2014: Lafayette Journal and Courier

Shots lead to criminal recklessness charge

Written by Ron Wilkins and Emily Campion

Patrick L. Young fired off several shots from a gun in his southside neighborhood Thursday afternoon, which put school bus drivers briefly on alert and landed Young in jail a short time later.

Police received a report of several shots fired in the area of Regal Valley Court and Kyverdale Drive around 2:40 p.m. Thursday.

After talking with neighbors, officers spoke with Young, 40, who lives on Regal Valley Court.

They arrested Young on a preliminary charge of criminal recklessness with a deadly weapon, a Class D felony. Police removed several weapons from Young's house.

Young posted a \$500 cash bond and was released from the Tippecanoe County Jail later Thursday, according to jail records.

During the incident, police alerted Tippecanoe School Corp. officials because school buses were transporting students. Police asked corporation officials to not allow children off the bus in the vicinity of the shots fired.

However, no students had to be detained on the bus, according to Sue Scott, communications coordinator for the school system.

"Those were our high school routes, and no kids lived in that area or were dropped off," she said. "Police advised us just in case. By the time our elementary buses were ready to run, the situation had been cleared."

March 14, 2014: Lafayette Journal and Courier

Felony charges filed in wake of crash that killed passenger

Written by Emily Campion

Jerry Arnold Ford, 29, of Lafayette faces a slew of charges, including operating while intoxicated with a controlled substance in his blood causing death, a Class B felony, for a one-vehicle accident the morning of Sept. 15 on Valley Street.

According to court documents, Ford was driving Roxie Johnson's car, a white Ford Mustang, when he drove off the road and hit a tree. Police found Johnson in the back seat of the car with Kestin Slaybaugh.

Ford initially told police that Johnson was driving and went off the road and crashed, but Johnson was the only person with injuries, and most of the car's damage was to the passenger side. Johnson was pronounced dead at a hospital.

Police found evidence inconsistent with Ford's story. Ford admitted that Johnson had been driving at first, but began to "nod off," so he took over. Slaybaugh was in the back seat. Ford also admitted to using methamphetamine two days before, which drug tests confirmed.

Ford's criminal history includes possession of methamphetamine, forgery, operating while never receiving a license, and theft.

Ford was charged Thursday in Tippecanoe Superior Court 2. In addition to the Class B felony, he was charged with operating a vehicle while intoxicated causing death, a Class C felony; operating a motor vehicle while suspended resulting in death, a Class C felony; and was deemed a habitual offender.

Ford stayed in Tippecanoe County Jail for two days after the accident. He bonded out for \$2,500.

March 14, 2014: WLFITV

Man gets prison time for meth possession



TIPPECANOE CO., Ind. (WLFI) – A Lafayette man is sentenced to two years in prison and two years Community Corrections for possessing methamphetamine.

Tippecanoe County Prosecutor Pat Harrington said Joshua Duncan, 25, pleaded guilty to several charges including meth possession and being a habitual substance offender.

Harrington said police arrested Duncan last April after receiving a report of someone trying to make meth on McCarty Lane. Police found Duncan with baggies of meth and spice.

At the time, News 18 reported Duncan admitted he'd been smoking the meth with a couple other people.

March 12, 2014: Lafayette Journal and Courier

Battery charges lead to 5-year sentence

Kevin Ray Trueblood II, 23, of Fort Myers, Fla., faces five years with the Indiana Department of Correction for battery resulting in serious bodily injury.

Trueblood and his wife, were staying at someone's home on South Fourth Street on Aug. 19 because he was homeless. About 8 a.m. the man who allowed him to stay at the house asked Trueblood to leave. Trueblood hit the man in the face, causing fractures that required surgery.

Trueblood admitted to police that he punched the man in the face. Trueblood's criminal history includes receiving stolen property and false informing.

Trueblood will spend five years with the Department of Correction and one year with Tippecanoe County Community Corrections, if he is accepted. The court also ordered \$1,991.52 in restitution for medical expenses.

March 11, 2014: WLFITV

Man stealing pills as homeowner returns gets 14-year sentence



By Dan Klein

LAFAYETTE, Ind. (WLFI) – Shavon King, 27, of Lafayette was sentenced Tuesday to 12 years in prison for stealing pills from a Lafayette house as the resident returned home.

King pleaded guilty last month to charges of burglary, narcotic possession and being a habitual substance offender.

As News 18 already reported in October, a resident on N. 10th Street came home, heard someone inside the house and then saw King run out the front door. King was caught several blocks away with six bottles of stolen pills in his possession.

Tippecanoe County Prosecutor Pat Harrington said in addition to 12 years in prison, King was sentenced to two years of probation.

March 11, 2014: WLFITV

Man sentenced to 6 years for battery



By Alexandra Kruczek

TIPPECANOE CO., Ind. (WLFI) – A six year sentence is ordered for a man who punched another in the face which caused serious injury.

Kevin Trueblood II, 23, pleaded guilty to one count of battery causing serious bodily injury.

Prosecutors said Trueblood, who was homeless at the time, stayed the night at a Lafayette home in August of last year. They said when one of the people living there asked him to leave the next morning, Trueblood got angry, threw a punch and caused jaw fractures that required surgery.

Trueblood was sentenced to six years in the Department of Corrections and possibly, if approved, one year in Tippecanoe County Community Corrections. He was also ordered to pay close to \$2,000 in restitution for medical expenses.

March 7, 2014: WLFITV

High profile forensic psychiatrist may take stand in Cousins case

By Holly Campbell

TIPPECANOE CO., Ind. (WLFI) - A forensic psychiatrist known for his work in many high profile murder cases may take the stand in the murder trial of Cody Cousins.

Dr. Phillip Resnick has worked on cases against Jeffery Dahmer, Timothy McVeigh, Andrea Yates, Unabomber Theodore Kaczynski, Casey Anthony and Scott Peterson.

Resnick is a Professor of Psychiatry and the Director of the Division of Forensic Psychiatry for Case Western Reserve University's School of Medicine.

Cousins' attorney Robert Gevers also listed Cousins' parents Wendy Melancon and Ernest Cousins on a list of potential witnesses and exhibits.

Cousins, 24, is being held without bond in the fatal shooting of another Purdue student on campus in January.

Cousins has a jury trial set for October 6th.

March 6, 2014: WLFITV

Lafayette man sentenced for GoLo burglary



By Alexandra Kruczek

TIPPECANOE CO., Ind. (WLFI) – A Lafayette man gets a two-year sentence for his involvement with a burglary at a Lafayette gas station last July.

Prosecutors said Trevor Slone pleaded guilty one count of conspiracy to commit burglary. They said Slone and another man planned to rob the Northwestern Avenue GoLo gas station where Slone worked as the night clerk.

Prosecutors said Slone admitted providing information about night deposit procedures and acted as a look-out during the burglary.

Slone will spend six months in Tippecanoe County Community Corrections, 18 months on probation, and work 136 hours of community service. He must also pay more than \$1,000 in restitution.

March 5, 2014: Lafayette Journal and Courier

Lafayette man, 20, charged in connection to recent stabbing on Schuyler Avenue

By Emily Campion

Diunte Lamont Moon, 20, of Lafayette was charged Wednesday with battery and criminal recklessness in connection with a Feb. 26 stabbing on Schuyler Avenue.

Frank Marshall, 25, suffered a stab wound to his chest and a cut on his hand after Moon tackled him in the doorway of his apartment in the heat of a complaint about noise, according to court documents.

Moon had complained once to the apartment complex's landlord about the level of noise coming from next door, where Marshall was visiting a friend.

Moon consulted the landlord a second time and told the landlord to call police because he was going to fight Marshall. One of Marshall's friends told police he saw Moon holding a knife and walking toward Marshall, who was outside the apartment, before Moon tackled Marshall.

Marshall was transported to St. Elizabeth Central hospital and was released the same day. Moon was taken to Tippecanoe County Jail, where he is being held on \$12,500 surety and \$1,250 cash bond. He faces one count of battery with a deadly weapon, a Class C felony; one count of criminal recklessness while armed with a deadly weapon, a Class D felony; and battery, a Class A misdemeanor.

March 5, 2014: Lafayette Journal and Courier

Police, not 14-year-old, meet up with man, 54; child solicitation charges filed

By Emily Campion

David G. Hall, 54, of Lafayette was charged Wednesday with child solicitation using a computer, a Class C felony, after an undercover investigation led police to Hall.

Hall had put an advertisement online looking for "a young guy." Undercover police responded, posing as a 14-year-old, and their conversation became increasingly sexual in a matter of days, according to court documents.

Hall made plans to meet with the alleged 14-year-old Tuesday afternoon. He was met by police. Hall admitted to agreeing to meet with a 14-year-old for a sexual encounter and that he knew it was wrong to do so, according to court documents.

Hall is being held in Tippecanoe County Jail under a \$5,000 surety and \$500 cash bond.

March 5, 2014: WLFITV

Woman charged for using another's credit card

By Alexandra Kruczek

TIPPECANOE CO., Ind. (WLFI) – A Linden woman faces charges after prosecutors say she spent more than \$2,000 on a stolen credit card.

Prosecutors said Kelli Cooksey, 30, took card after it was left in the store she was employed at within the Tippecanoe Mall last December. They said Cooksey made purchases at Hobby Lobby, Olive Garden, Wal-Mart and other stores in the Tippecanoe Mall.

Prosecutors said Cooksey admitted using the stolen card for those purchases.

Cooksey faces charges of forgery, theft and fraud.

March 5, 2014: WLFITV

Lafayette man charged after Schuyler Ave. stabbing

By Alexandra Kruczek

TIPPECANOE CO., Ind. (WLFI) – Charges are filed against a Lafayette man after prosecutors said he stabbed a man for being too loud at an apartment complex.

Prosecutors said on Wednesday, Feb. 26 Diunte Moon, 20, stabbed a man in the chest and hand after an argument at an apartment complex on the 1500 block of Schuyler Avenue in Lafayette.

Police said the property manager told officers that Moon was arguing with his neighbors. He told the manager to call police, because he was going to fight people in the apartment next to him. Moon then left the complex's office.

The victim Frank Marshall, 25, was outside a friend's apartment as Moon exited the office. Witnesses said as Marshall was trying to get back inside, he was tackled to the ground by Moon and stabbed. Police said another man forced Moon out of the apartment and locked the door before calling police.

Marshall was transported to St. Elizabeth Hospital and has since been released.

Moon faces charges of battery by means of a deadly weapon, a Class C Felony, and criminal recklessness while armed with a deadly weapon, a Class D Felony.

March 5, 2014: WLFITV

Lafayette woman charged for selling drugs to undercover cop

By Alexandra Kruczek

TIPPECANOE CO., Ind. (WLFI) – Charges are filed against a Lafayette woman who prosecutors said sold cocaine and heroin to an undercover police officer.

Prosecutors said Deborah Reagin, 54, met with the undercover officer in October 2013 and sold cocaine. In December 2013, they said she sold heroin to the undercover officer.

Reagin faces charges including dealing and possession of cocaine, and dealing a narcotic drug.

According to court documents, Reagin has a lengthy prior criminal history. Currently, she has pending charges for possession of a legend drug, intimidation, theft and habitual substance offender.

In November 2003, Reagin was convicted of conspiracy to commit dealing meth and habitual substance offender. She was convicted of two counts of forgery and attempted acquisition of a controlled substance in June 1993. She has three operating while intoxicated charges, one from 1990 and two from 1995.

Reagin also has prior convictions for theft and habitual offender from October 1999 under a different name.

March 4, 2014: WLFITV

Horton charged after helping inmate escape

By Alexandra Kruczek

TIPPECANOE CO., Ind. (WLFI) – Charges have been filed against a man police said helped a Warren County inmate escape last fall.

Danny Horton, 45, was arrested in Lafayette Tuesday, Feb. 25 by U.S. Marshals. He had been wanted on warrants for parole violations, as well as warrants in Warren County for two meth-related charges.

Horton is now charged with possession of a firearm by a serious violent felon, and marijuana and paraphernalia possession.

February 28, 2014: Lafayette Journal and Courier

Grade-altering scheme sends ex-Purdue student to jail 2nd student sentenced for hacking professors' computers

Written by Ron Wilkins

Deputies led 25-year-old Roy Sun out of Tippecanoe Superior Court 2 with his hands cuffed behind his back Thursday afternoon and took him to jail to begin serving 90 days of his four-year prison sentence for changing his undergraduate grades.

It's quite a fall for Sun, who earned more than \$70,000 in his first year after college working as an engineer.

After two years in a well-paying job, Sun went back to college in his native Massachusetts for a master's degree, until it became public that he had changed his grades at Purdue University and was facing felony computer tampering charges.

He lost his bachelor's degree, got kicked out of Boston University, was arrested and booked into jail. He's been working as a part-time busboy, earning about \$1,500 last year.

After 90 days in jail, he'll spend the balance of a four-year sentence on supervised probation.

The depth of Sun's academic deception and was on full display Thursday during his sentencing hearing.

Sun first hacked into a professor's computer account and changed his grade in 2008. He said he volunteered to be the guinea pig to see if he and fellow Purdue student Mitsutoashi Shirasaki would get caught. They didn't, which emboldened Sun.

“When I came back in 2009, I felt really arrogant,” he said during the sentencing hearing. “I thought I was untouchable.

“It became so much easier to change my grades than going to class and working real hard.”

So with the exception of one course, Sun quit attending classes his senior year and still received straight A’s.

The class he actually attended was small and had weekly one-on-one meetings with the professor, Sun said. He earned an honest A and received an award for best student in that class, Sun said when asked by his attorney, Michael Troemel, how he did in that class.

Sun explained how he and Shirasaki had perfected a system of hacking into professors’ accounts about 10 minutes before the professors’ deadline to submit final grades for the semester.

They knew the deadline because they had hacked the professors’ accounts, and the deadline was generally late at night, Sun said, and was not a time that a professor would likely catch them. They changed Sun and Shirasaki’s grades, and later changed one grade for their friend, Sujay Sharma, who was not aware of their intervention, Sun said.

Sharma received 18 months of probation for serving as a lookout while Sun and Shirasaki broke into professors’ offices to either plant or retrieve a keystroke recording device, which they used to learn passwords.

Initially, they planted the keystroke recorder on computers that professors used in the classrooms, but professors who used a blackboard instead of computers required the duo to take more drastic actions, Sun said.

Sun and Sharma pleaded guilty Dec. 30. Sun pleaded guilty to two counts of computer tampering and one count of conspiracy to commit computer tampering, all Class D felonies. Sharma pleaded guilty to one count of conspiracy to commit computer tampering.

Sun admitted to being the mastermind behind the plot, saying he had the understanding, expertise and equipment needed to gather passwords and hack into professors’ accounts, which gave them access to professors’ personal information that could have been used for identity theft. Some of the professors, Deputy Prosecutor Brian Johnson said, might have had classified national defense information because of Department of Defense research contracts.

Sun also said he told Shirasaki to leave the country and return to his native Japan, where Shirasaki remains today.

“If no one tells you you can’t leave, you’re free to leave,” Sun said he told Shirasaki.

Before sentencing, Judge Thomas Busch said, “The most troubling thing about this is how brilliant you are and how capable you are to devise this and carry it out. ... I worry about people who are as bright as you who are as dishonest as you because you can do more damage.”

Troemel painted a picture that Sun’s future is bleak. He’s not able to get into an accredited university to honestly earn a bachelor’s degree, he’s dishonored himself and embarrassed his family, and his job prospects are limited to minimum-wage jobs.

Busch disagreed.

“I don’t think that your future is hopeless,” Busch said before handing down the sentence. “I think you have the opportunity to rebuild your life and make your parents proud of you.”

Sun sentenced in Purdue grade-changing scheme



By Holly Campbell

TIPPECANOE CO., Ind. (WLFJ) – A man involved in a grade-changing scheme at Purdue was sentenced to jail time Thursday.

Former Purdue student Roy Sun, 25, will spend 90 days behind bars for his role in stealing professors' passwords and changing his grades. Sun took the stand today and admitted to changing 10 grades over the span of two years while he was a student at Purdue.

Investigators said Sun worked with two friends, Sujay Sharma and Mitsutoshi Shirasaki to break into professors' offices, bug their computers, steal passwords and then change their grades.

Sun said in the beginning they only stole exams. He said he felt "untouchable" when they got away with changing his grades.

Sun graduated Purdue in 2010. He worked as an engineer for a few years before going to graduate school at Boston University. He was attending school there when he was arrested last spring. Boston University has since expelled Sun.

Sun pleaded guilty in December to two counts of computer tampering and one count of conspiracy to commit computer tampering.

Sharma was sentenced to 18 months probation and 200 hours of community service on Monday.

Shirasaki is believed to be in Japan and is wanted on a warrant.

Sun was also sentenced to 4 years probation after he serves his jail time, 100 hours of community service and the judge ordered that he must pay \$330 to Purdue and return transcripts and his diploma from the university.

February 27, 2014: WLFITV

Prosecutors ID 126 possible witnesses in fatal Purdue shooting

By Holly Campbell

TIPPECANOE CO., Ind. (WLFJ) – Prosecutors may call more than 120 people to testify in the murder trial of Cody Cousins.

Cousins, 24, is being held without bond in the fatal shooting of another Purdue student on campus last month. Prosecutors filed discovery papers in the case, listing 126 potential witnesses, including Purdue students and police.

Prosecutors also have more than 60 recorded and written statements taken after the shooting and stabbing of 21-year-old Andrew Boldt. One of those is a video of Cousins taken the day of the shooting, Jan. 21.

The filing also includes a list of potential evidence, including a .38-caliber revolver, a Gerber knife and photographs from witnesses' cell phones.

Cousins' jury trial is set for April 22.

February 26, 2014: Lafayette Journal and Courier

Ex-Purdue student gets probation for hacking professor's computer

Written by Ron Wilkins

Sujay Sharma's easy route to better grades by conspiring to tamper with a Purdue University professor's computer got him a felony conviction and 18 months of probation.

Sharma, who was sentenced Monday, might be able to change his felony conviction to a misdemeanor conviction. But first he must complete a probation period, which includes 200 hours of community service, continued counseling and testifying truthfully against co-defendants Roy Sun and Mitsutoshi Shirasaki, according to a sentence summary from the Tippecanoe County prosecutor's office.

Between January 2010 and December 2012, the trio, all Purdue students at the time, allegedly broke into professors' offices and replaced the computer keyboards with identical ones that recorded log-in information.

This enabled them to learn the professors' passwords; they then replaced the original keyboards, according to the probable cause affidavit.

Sun and Shirasaki are accused of using the passwords to change many of their grades, while Sharma was accused of changing only one of his.

Sharma pleaded guilty in December to conspiracy to commit computer tampering, a Class D felony. Six other charges were dropped.

Sun also pleaded guilty in December to an identical conspiracy charge. Additionally, Sun pleaded guilty to two counts of computer tampering. Sun is scheduled to be sentenced Thursday.

Sun and Sharma were arrested in May and June.

Shirasaki is a fugitive.

Although Shirasaki reportedly cooperated with police during the investigation, he returned to his native Japan and has not been arrested on 18 charges, including conspiracy to commit burglary, conspiracy to commit theft, and several counts each of burglary, computer tampering and theft.

February 25, 2014: WLFITV

Man charged after he stole vehicle, tried evading police

By Alexandra Kruczek

TIPPECANOE CO., Ind. (WLFI) – Charges are filed against a Kokomo man after prosecutors said he stole a vehicle and tried to evade police.

Prosecutors said Jordan Reynolds, 32, was behind the wheel of a truck that was reported stolen Thursday, Feb. 20. Officers said police attempted to stop the truck, but Reynolds would not yield to emergency lights.

Authorities report Reynolds eventually drove the vehicle into a field and fled on foot, near Lafayette Fire Department Station 9. Officers said they found Reynolds hiding under shelving near the LFD's training facility.

Police said officers found marijuana, methamphetamine and a pipe in his jacket.

Reynolds was booked into the Tippecanoe County Jail. He faces charges including auto theft, possession of marijuana, possession of methamphetamine and resisting law enforcement.

According to court documents, Reynolds has prior criminal history.

In July 2009, Reynolds was convicted for strangulation in Hamilton County. In February 2008, he was convicted of aggravated battery in Howard County. Two other cases that were also from Howard County show he was convicted of intimidation in November 2005, and he was convicted of burglary and criminal recklessness in June 2001.

February 25, 2014: WLFITV

Lafayette man charged for stealing AC units

By Alexandra Kruczek

TIPPECANOE CO., Ind. (WLFI) – A Lafayette man faces charges after prosecutors said he stole air conditioning units from several Lafayette homes last fall.

Anthony Volpi, 44, faces burglary, theft and corrupt business influence charges. According to police, the string of thefts last year started in September and continued into December.

During the investigation, prosecutors said another man told police he and Volpi broke into vacant homes. They said Volpi later admitted stealing at least 15 AC units and scrapping them for money.

February 20, 2014: WLFITV

4 face charges in Lafayette armed robbery

By Alexandra Kruczek

TIPPECANOE CO., Ind. (WLFI) – Four individuals face charges in connection with a robbery in Lafayette last Thursday.

Prosecutors said Lawrence Anderson, 23, Cortez Collins, 21, Jaaz Jones, 20, and Alexis Daniels, 18, face multiple charges including robbery, burglary and theft. They said Anderson faces two additional battery charges.

Court documents said the incident occurred at a home on the 2500 block of Eckman Drive in Lafayette on Thursday, Feb. 13. Prosecutors said it was drug-related and the group targeted the home.

Officers report a woman inside the home opened the door for Daniels, when Anderson, Collins and Jones went inside and stole a safe and a Playstation Three.

Prosecutors said Anderson also assaulted the woman with a handgun.

February 20, 2014: WLFITV

Lafayette man charged with bestiality

LAFAYETTE, Ind. (WLF) - A Lafayette man faces bestiality charges for allegedly having sexual relations with a dog.

Police were called to a home on Walnut Street in Dayton on Saturday for a report of a suspicious person. Prosecutors said a woman had surveillance footage of David Arnold, 52, having sex with her dog.

According to court documents, Arnold was a previous resident of the home. On tape, he was allegedly seen engaging in several sex acts with the dog, including intercourse.

Officers went to Arnold's residence in Lafayette the next day and it was confirmed that he was the same man in the surveillance footage.

He is charged with two felony counts of bestiality.

February 19, 2014: Lafayette Journal and Courier

El Rodeo restaurant empire accused of money laundering

Written by Justin L. Mack

Civil forfeiture lawsuits filed in Marion and Tippecanoe counties against El Rodeo and dozens of interconnected restaurants and business entities raided across the state last fall accuse the Mexican eatery empire of being a money laundering operation.

The lawsuits do not detail the nature of the alleged money laundering and other illegal activity by the businesses and people affiliated with them. The documents, filed in the past week, mention millions of dollars seized in bank accounts, as well as foreign currencies, gold coins, vehicles and homes. The November raids are believed to be part of a grand jury probe. Prosecutors have not elaborated.

The forfeitures total more than \$5 million.

Court documents released Wednesday by the Marion County prosecutor's office reveal that in November investigators seized more than \$2.7 million in U.S. currency after freezing bank accounts of dozens of individuals, restaurants and other businesses listed as defendants in the case. Police also seized two vehicles, the equivalent of \$1.1 million in foreign currency, 15 Mexican gold coins and one unknown foreign coin from the Indianapolis home of El Rodeo principal Francisco Salgado.

A third vehicle was seized from Enrique Melendez and Rafael Gonzalez, two of the nearly 30 other listed defendants.

Two complaints filed in Marion County on Jan. 2 call for the forfeiture of Salgado's property in the 8400 block of Skipjack Drive and the property of El Rodeo secretary Jose Melendez in the 10000 block of Geist Ridge Court in Fishers. According to the Marion County assessor's office, Salgado's property has a 2013 gross assessed value of \$460,300. The Hamilton County assessor's office shows that Melendez's property has a 2013 appraised value of \$634,200.

A total of six civil forfeiture complaints were filed in Marion County from Dec. 2 to Tuesday.

A criminal forfeiture occurs after a defendant is convicted of a crime. In a civil forfeiture, such as the El Rodeo case, no one has been convicted.

“No criminal charges have been filed in this matter, and no further information regarding the ongoing investigation is available at this time,” Marion County prosecutor’s office spokeswoman Peg McLeish said in an email.

J. Richard Kiefer and Jillian C. Keating are listed as attorneys involved in the case, but it is unclear whom they represent. Calls placed to Kiefer and Keating for comment Wednesday were not returned.

On Friday, the Tippecanoe County prosecutor’s office filed a civil forfeiture lawsuit cataloging the seizure of \$3.4 million from businesses and individuals with ties to El Rodeo in at least 11 Indiana counties.

Calls placed to that prosecutor’s office were not returned Wednesday.

The suits claim that all of the seized money, vehicles and property were obtained illegally. Therefore, the defendants should forfeit the money to the criminal justice system.

Police across the state served search warrants the week of Nov. 18 during raids at restaurants and homes. El Rodeo establishments in Indianapolis and Avon, Fortville, Lafayette, Mooresville, Richmond and West Lafayette were searched.

Other Mexican-themed restaurants also were raided, including El Jaripeo eateries in Indianapolis and Frankfort, Lebanon and Zionsville; Los Toros restaurants in Indianapolis; and three La Carreta Restaurant & Bars, in Merrillville, Schererville and Vincennes.

The single largest cash seizure mentioned in the civil forfeiture complaints came from a business with no address that was listed as “El Rodeo #11, LLC.” Court documents state that \$967,840.81 was taken from a PNC bank account associated with that entity.

The Marion County complaints accuse the defendants of running a corrupt business enterprise through a pattern of racketeering activity.

Court documents state that the suspected money laundering took the form of receiving, concealing, possessing, transferring or transporting the proceeds of criminal activity. The suit goes on to state that the money laundering involves at least two such incidents of the criminal conduct. There is no mention of what kind of criminal conduct took place.

Theft accusations relate to extorting unauthorized control over state property by illicitly retaining and failing to report money owed to the state as sales taxes, use taxes or other taxes on several occasions.

The Tippecanoe County lawsuit includes accusations of forgery and perjury related to tax documents, business formation documents, employment records, tax returns and other documents containing false or misleading information.

In addition to the request for forfeiture of the cash, vehicle and property, both county complaints ask the court to:

- Grant a permanent injunction against further operation of alleged “racketeering activity.”
- Require the defendants to divest themselves of any interests in the named restaurants and deliver the funds to the county governments and state.
- Prevent the owners from reorganizing their businesses.

- Revoke any professional licenses the defendants might have from the state of Indiana.

February 19, 2014: Lafayette Journal and Courier

Tippecanoe files civil forfeiture lawsuit against El Rodeo, others

Written by Ron Wilkens

Police confiscated more than \$3.4 million during November raids at El Rodeo restaurants and other eateries throughout the state, and now Tippecanoe County wants to keep that money.

In a civil forfeiture lawsuit filed Friday, the Tippecanoe County prosecutor's office accuses El Rodeo's owners and other parties in the businesses of obtaining the money illegally. Therefore, the suit claims, the defendants should forfeit the money.

Tippecanoe County Prosecutor Pat Harrington said in a written response to the Journal & Courier that the suspects in the Nov. 18 raids have not been criminally charged, and the cases are under investigation. They, therefore, should be considered innocent until proven guilty in court.

A civil forfeiture is different than a criminal forfeiture, which happens after a defendant is convicted of a crime.

Indiana Attorney General Greg Zoeller, who was not commenting on the specific case, explained the purpose of a civil forfeiture action.

"The object of civil forfeiture is to take away the ill-gotten gains and put (the assets) into the criminal justice system."

In order to win a civil forfeiture case, the prosecutor must prove through a preponderance of the evidence that the gains were illegally attained, Zoeller said.

The suit names at least 25 restaurants and several individuals associated with the restaurants of operating criminal enterprises and engaging in money laundering for concealing the proceeds of criminal activity. Specifically what criminal activity allegedly took place is not mentioned.

The lawsuit also accuses the restaurants of theft, alleging that the businesses failed to report the correct amount of money they owed the state in taxes.

Harrington said Marion County prosecutors have filed a similar civil forfeiture suit.

Police across the state served search warrants on Nov. 18 during coordinated raids at restaurants across the state. El Rodeo establishments in Lafayette, West Lafayette, Richmond, Indianapolis, Fortville, Mooresville and Avon were searched.

Other Mexican-themed restaurants also were raided, including El Jaripeo eateries in Lebanon, Frankfort, Zionsville and Indianapolis. Police also searched a Los Toros restaurants in Indianapolis, and three La Carreta Restaurant & Bars in Schererville, Vincennes and Merrillville.

One of the individuals named as a defendant in the lawsuit, Jose Bustos, is the manager of the El Rodeo Restaurant in West Lafayette. Reached for comment on Tuesday, he said, "I don't have any comments right now because our lawyers are still working on it. They don't tell us anything."

Bustos said Tuesday he was not aware that a lawsuit had been filed.

The lawsuit alleges that perjury and forgery occurred through falsified tax documents, business formation documents, employment records and tax returns.

In addition to the request for forfeiture of the cash, the suit asks for a permanent injunction against further operation of alleged “racketeering activity.”

The suit asks the court to require the defendants to divest themselves of any interests in the named restaurants and deliver the funds of divestment to the plaintiffs. The plaintiffs include the state of Indiana, Tippecanoe County prosecutor’s office, Lafayette and West Lafayette police departments, the Tippecanoe County Sheriff’s Office, Purdue Police Department and the Indiana State Police.

The lawsuit also asks that the owners be prevented from reorganizing their businesses.

The suit asks the court to revoke any professional licenses the defendants might have from the state.

Lastly, the suit asks that the cost of the legal action, the enforcement and attorney fees be assessed against the defendants.

Another civil forfeiture lawsuit was filed in Tippecanoe Superior Court 1 on Jan. 3 seeking to force Luciano Santana and Jose Alfredo Bernal, both of whom are named in the suit filed Friday, to turn over their vehicles, a 2008 Hummer H3 and a 2009 Ford F-150 truck.

J. Richard Kiefer is listed in court records as Bernal’s attorney. The Journal & Courier was unable to reach Keifer on Tuesday for comments on either lawsuit.

February 19, 2014: Lafayette Journal and Courier

Home surveillance video leads to bestiality charges for Lafayette man

Written by Emily Campion

A Lafayette man faces charges of two counts of bestiality after police say he was caught on home video engaged in sexual acts with a dog, according to charges filed Wednesday in Tippecanoe Superior Court 5.

David A. Arnold, 52, faces two Class D felony counts in connection with the incident, which was reported by a Dayton resident and investigated by the Dayton Police Department.

The woman, who is not identified in court documents, told police that a former occupant of her home was seen on home surveillance video having sex with a dog. She identified the man as Arnold.

Police viewed the video, then interviewed the suspect at his Lafayette home. According to court documents, Arnold confirmed he was the man seen in the video.

He is ordered to appear in Judge Les Meade’s court on March 17.

February 19, 2014: WLFI-TV

Laf. woman sentenced to over a decade in prison



Written by Alexandra Kruczek

TIPPECANOE CO., Ind. (WLFI) – A Lafayette woman was sentenced to over a decade in prison for possession of a narcotic drug.

Prosecutors said Cassandra Davis, 36, was wanted on a warrant last year. In October 2013, she was arrested outside of her residence on Colfax Street in Lafayette.

Police said they found evidence of a folded piece of foil with heroin, a cap for a syringe, a razor blade and two pills.

Davis pleaded guilty to possession of a narcotic drug. She was sentenced to a total of 12 years, six years in the Department of Corrections and four years on supervised probation.

February 19, 2014: WBIX

Officials Seek \$3.4M Seized From Indiana Restaurants

(LAFAYETTE) - Prosecutors are seeking to keep more than \$3.4 million seized last fall during police raids at about two dozen Mexican restaurants across Indiana.

Civil forfeiture lawsuits have been filed in Tippecanoe and Marion counties, accusing the restaurant owners and others involved with the businesses of illegally obtaining the money. The Tippecanoe County lawsuit alleges the restaurants carried out offenses including money laundering and falsifying tax documents.

Tippecanoe County Prosecutor Pat Harrington tells the Journal & Courier that no criminal charges have been filed from the November raids and the investigation continues.

The raids involved El Rodeo restaurants in the Lafayette, Indianapolis and Richmond areas and other Mexican restaurants in central and northwestern Indiana.

An attorney for the restaurants didn't immediately return a message from The Associated Press seeking comment.

February 19, 2014: WLFI-TV

Woman sentenced for breaking into Family Express



Written by Alexandra Kruczek

TIPPECANOE CO., Ind. (WLFI) – A Battle Ground woman is sentenced to six years for breaking into a Family Express store in June of 2013.

Surveillance video shows Jerrica Zygus, 25, threw a rock through a glass door. While police were at the scene, Zygus walked through the parking lot and later told police she stole a box of candy bars and pointed out where she hid them.

Prosecutors said police found the box of candy in a nearby tree.

Zygus pleaded guilty to burglary as part of a plea agreement. She was sentenced to 450 days in the Department of Corrections, with nearly 4 years of supervised probation and one year unsupervised probation.

February 14, 2014: WLFI TV

Balser heads back to jail

By Holly Campbell

Those attacks generated two additional charges, failure to restrain his dog resulting in bodily injury, Class A misdemeanors. Those charges are in Tippecanoe Superior Court 5.

But the probation violations Balser admitted to in Tippecanoe Superior 1 had nothing to do with the dogs' attacks. Instead, it had to do with four incidents that occurred in 2012 and 2013 before the attacks.

Balser admitted violating his probation on three occasions when he was driving without being licensed. He also admitted a fourth violation in October 2013 in which he was in possession of alcohol. Some of the conditions of his probation are that he not commit felonies or misdemeanors and not drink or be around alcohol, according to information presented during the hearing.

Judge Randy Williams ordered Balser to serve the balance of his suspended sentence from his 2009 convictions for conspiracy to commit burglary, a Class C felony, and auto theft and theft, Class D felonies.

In 2009, Williams sentenced Balser to 10 years, with four years suspended. With time already served and time off for good behavior, he was released from prison in June 2010. He violated probation in 2011 and went back to prison again before being released in February 2012 to serve his remaining three years on probation. Those three years were revoked Friday.

February 14, 2014: Lafayette Journal and Courier

Pit bull owner's mom emotional as son heads off to prison

The mother of the man accused of allowing his pet pit bulls to get loose and attack two people said Friday during his probation revocation violation hearing that her son's not the "monster" police make him out to be.

Cory Balser's family filled the first row of the gallery in Tippecanoe Superior 1 Friday morning and watched as he admitted to four violations of his probation from three 2009 convictions. As a result, he'll serve the remaining three years of a prison sentence, which had been suspended.

Wearing a blue jail uniform, his hands chained to his waist, Balser spoke in quiet tones to his nearby family. After the hearing, Lois Balser said her son had been targeted by police after he was arrested and entered the judicial system as a teenager.

"I don't think it's fair that he's going to jail for my dog biting my husband," she said, her voice choked with emotion after the hearing. "They're making my son out to be a monster, and he's not."

Balser, 22, found himself back in the public's eye and the court's scrutiny after his two pit bull terriers attacked and injured Balser's father last fall. Less than a month later, the dogs attacked and injured Balser's 67-year-old neighbor and her dog. For one of his pit bulls, Chewy, the Dec. 3 attack was his third attack on a person since October 2012. When police caught Chewy a few days after that attack, he was euthanized.

February 13, 2014: Lafayette Journal and Courier

Lafayette woman charged with OWI

Colleen Jill Holmes, 61, of Lafayette, faces numerous charges after hitting a car on Underwood Street and fleeing the scene Nov. 28.

Police found Holmes two blocks away with her car parked in front of her home. According to court documents, Holmes told police she became distracted while driving an Oldsmobile and hit a pickup truck head on.

Holmes' passenger told police they had been drinking and left intoxicated in Holmes' car. Holmes was taken to St. Elizabeth Central for a legal blood draw resulting with a BAC more than .015. The legal limit to operate a vehicle is 0.08.

Holmes' priors include operating while a habitual traffic offender and two convictions of operating while intoxicated.

Holmes was charged Thursday with operating a motor vehicle after privileges had been forfeited for life, class C felony, operating a motor vehicle while intoxicated while having a prior conviction for operating while intoxicated, class D felony, operating while intoxicated, class A misdemeanor, and operating a vehicle with at least 0.15 gram of alcohol, class A misdemeanor.

Court documents determine Holmes as a habitual substance offender. She posted bond in November.

February 10, 2014: Lafayette Journal and Courier

18-year sentence for 4th defendant in Purdue robberies



Written by Ron Wilkins

For Julius Armstead, 18 is not a good number.

He was 18 years old when he robbed four Purdue University students on campus over the course of four nights in October 2012, and his sentence, which was handed down Friday, comes out to 18 years.

Armstead, now 19, recently pleaded guilty to four counts of robbery and received an 18-year sentence on each count. The sentences, however, run concurrently.

He'll spend 14 years at an Indiana Department of Correction facility, followed by two years at the Tippecanoe County Community Corrections facility. After that, he'll be on probation for two years.

Along with the four robbery charges, Armstead pleaded guilty to four theft charges for taking the Purdue students' property, including laptops, a phone, wallets and a watch. Those charges were merged with the robbery charges, according to a sentencing summary from Tippecanoe County Prosecutor Pat Harrington.

The court found aggravating factors — such as Armstead's criminal history, that he was out on bond at the time of the robberies and that he violated the conditions of his bond — outweighed the mitigating factors.

He also was ordered to pay \$274.50 in restitution.

Armstead was the last of four defendants charged in the strong-arm assaults on campus that started on Oct. 26, 2012, and ended Oct. 29, 2012. The other three also pleaded guilty and were sentenced Jan. 24 to prison terms ranging from four to nine years. Each was ordered to pay \$274.50 in restitution.

Armstead attended a hearing on June 14, 2013, and was accused of attempting to flee from the courthouse after officers attempted to arrest him on a warrant for theft and conspiracy to commit fraud in an unrelated charge. Armstead was convicted of resisting law enforcement for resisting the bailiffs who attempted to arrest him.

February 10, 2014: WLFI-TV

Lafayette man sentenced for campus robberies



TIPPECANOE CO., Ind. (WLFI) – A Lafayette man is sentenced to 14 years in prison for his role in four robberies near Purdue's campus.

Julius Armstead, 19, robbed four individuals near campus during a four-day stretch in October of 2012.

As News 18 has already reported, three other defendants were sentenced for their roles in the robberies in January.

Tippecanoe County Prosecutor Pat Harrington said Armstead was sentenced to 14 years in prison, 2 years in Community Corrections and 2 years on probation.

February 4, 2014: Lafayette Journal and Courier

Cocaine dealer sentenced to 14 years in jail



Written by Ron Wilkins

Kenith Kilpatrick recently admitted that he sold cocaine to an undercover police officer in the parking lot of Pay Less Super Market on Beck Lane. Kilpatrick learned Monday that he will spend 14 years in jail for that illegal deal in May 2012.

Kilpatrick, 38, of Chicago, met the undercover officer on May 1, 2012, and sold crack cocaine. Kilpatrick also admitted to being a habitual substance offender. He faced a possible sentence between 12 and 16 years in prison.

He has prior convictions of dealing cocaine and dealing cannabis in Illinois, as well as a domestic battery conviction. Those convictions were found to be aggravating factors at his sentencing hearing. Other aggravating factors included his history of illegal alcohol and drug use. The court found three mitigating factors — his guilty plea, taking responsibility for his crimes, minor children dependent upon him, and remorse, according to a sentencing summary.

Kilpatrick was sentenced to 12 years in an Indiana Department of Correction facility, followed by two years at the Tippecanoe County Community Corrections facility. If, however, community corrections does not accept Kilpatrick, he'll serve the two years at the Department of Correction, according to the sentencing summary.

February 4, 2014: Lafayette Journal and Courier

Heroin possession leads to 23-year sentence



Written by Emily Campion

Stuart Wayne Bookwalter, 34, of Lafayette has a history peppered with charges, including theft, attempted burglary, receiving stolen property, carrying a handgun without a license and possession of marijuana.

Bookwalter was sentenced Monday to 23 years for dealing heroin and related offenses. Mitigating factors include mental and physical health issues and two dependent children.

On Jan. 17, 2013, police found him at AOK Campground on County Road 300 South. A search of Bookwalter and his car produced a brownish substance that field-tested positive for heroin, and numerous syringes.

According to court documents, Bookwalter admitted to having 18 grams of heroin he was bringing back from Chicago.

Bookwalter was convicted of dealing heroin, possession of heroin, possession of a syringe and possession of paraphernalia. Bookwalter admitted to being a habitual substance offender to the bench during a jury trial Nov. 6.

February 4, 2014: WLFI-TV

Man sentenced for dealing cocaine to undercover police



TIPPECANOE COUNTY, Ind. (WLFI) – A Chicago man with ties to Tippecanoe County gets more than a decade in prison for dealing drugs.

Kenith Kilpatrick, 37, received a 14-year sentence after twice dealing cocaine to police at a Lafayette grocery store.

According to court documents, Kilpatrick sold cocaine to an undercover officer two times in May of 2012 at the Pay Less on Old U.S. 231.

Tippecanoe County Prosecutor Pat Harrington said Kilpatrick pleaded guilty to one count of dealing cocaine and being a habitual offender.

Kilpatrick was sentenced to 12 years in prison and 2 years in community corrections.

February 3, 2014: Lafayette Journal and Courier

2 charged with dealing, possessing heroin

Written by Emily Campion

Two Lafayette men face numerous charges for dealing and possessing heroin after to a three-month undercover operation.

Christopher Louis Baughman, Jr., 21, and Mitchell Eugene Gillham, 24, were formally charged Monday in Tippecanoe Superior Court 2 with conspiracy to deal a narcotic drug, three counts of dealing a narcotic drug, and three counts of possession of a narcotic drug.

According to court documents Baughman acted as the go-between for the undercover officer and Baughman's cousin, Gillham, who allegedly provided him heroin. Baughman was charged with an additional possession charge, a dealing charge, possession of paraphernalia and resisting law enforcement.

Baughman admitted to selling heroin "a few times" during a traffic violation stop, according to the affidavit of probable cause.

Baughman is in Tippecanoe County Jail with a \$12,500 surety and \$1,250 cash bond. Gillham has not been booked and was released on bond on charges for possession of a narcotic drug in 2013.

February 3, 2014: WLFI-TV

Attica man sentenced to more than 2 decades



Written by Alexandra Kruczek

TIPPECANOE CO., Ind. (WLFI) – An Attica man will spend more than two decades behind bars after dealing heroin at a Lafayette campground.

In January 2013, officers were called to the AOK Campground in Lafayette for a report of a suspicious vehicle. According to court documents, officers found 18 grams of heroin and a syringe on 34 year old Stuart Bookwalter.

Bookwalter admitted he was bringing it back from Chicago. He was convicted in November on four charges, including dealing heroin. He also admitted to a charge of being a habitual substance offender.

Tippecanoe County Prosecutor Pat Harrington said Bookwalter was sentenced to 23 years in prison.

January 31, 2014: Lafayette Journal and Courier

Lafayette man charged for hitting his pregnant wife

Written by Emily Campion

A Lafayette man faces battery charges after a fight with his pregnant wife escalated to a physical altercation on Sunday night.

Sergio Emmanuel Galvan, 22, of Lafayette was charged in Tippecanoe Circuit Court for battery, a Class C felony, and domestic battery, a Class D felony, in front of a child less than 16 years old.

According to court documents, Galvan hit his wife in the stomach and face, bit her arm and placed her in a choke hold. His wife was 12 weeks pregnant and their 2-year-old was present during the fight.

Galvan received a nonjudicial disciplinary action for assault in September 2012 while in the military at Camp Pendleton, which lead to an other than honorable discharge.

Galvan was taken to Tippecanoe County Jail and is being held on a \$10,000 surety and \$1,000 cash bond.

January 29, 2014: Lafayette Journal and Courier

West Point man deemed habitual offender after another round of charges

Written by Emily Campion

Jason Robert Jones, 31, of West Point was formally charged Wednesday in Tippecanoe Superior Court for possessing narcotics and controlled substances.

According to court documents, Lafayette police pulled Jones over on Jan. 23 after he neglected to signal before a making a turn. During a pat-down, police found a wad of cash and two weights in Jones' pocket.

A search of the van produced numerous pills and paraphernalia, including Dormin pills — commonly used to “cut” heroin — a used syringe, empty baggie corners, several cellphones and heroin.

Police identified the pills as Vyvanse, a drug used to treat attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, Oxycontin, Amphetamine and Clonazepam. The stop was made within 1,000 feet of St. James School and two housing complexes.

Between 2001 and 2011 Jones had been convicted of dealing a controlled substance, dealing marijuana, dealing methamphetamine and operating while intoxicated in Tippecanoe County. Given his priors, the state of Indiana deemed Jones a habitual substance offender and a habitual offender.

Jones also has been convicted of receiving stolen property, theft and burglary. Currently, Jones faces two counts of possession of a narcotic drug, Class B felonies; three counts of a controlled substance, Class C felonies; possession of a syringe, a Class D felony; and operating a vehicle while suspended, a Class A misdemeanor.

Jones is in Tippecanoe County Jail on a \$2500 cash and \$25,000 surety bond.

January 29, 2014: Lafayette Journal and Courier

Inmate scuffle leads to battery charges

Written by Emily Campion

An Oct. 7 scuffle between inmates at Tippecanoe County Jail resulted in Wednesday's formal charging of Quinton Devon Newsom, 23, of Lafayette with battery in Tippecanoe Superior Court 2.

Victim Brandon Michael Darnell refused to speak to law enforcement about his black eye, but video surveillance showed an argument between Newsom and Darnell escalate when Newsom hit Darnell on the left side of the face. Darnell fell to the floor, he laid motionless for several minutes.

Newsom dragged Darnell by the arm to Newsom's cell, leaving a bloody trail. Newsom then went back to clean the blood.

In the video footage, Darnell's feet could be seen sticking out of Newsom's cell. According to court documents, Darnell's feet began to move after several minutes. Newsom later helped Darnell sit up and assist him back to his cell.

January 29, 2014: WLFI-TV

Man pleads guilty to bank robberies



Written by Alexandra Kruczek

TIPPECANOE CO., Ind. (WLFI) – A Lafayette man is sentenced to more than three decades behind bars after pleading guilty to two bank robberies.

Tippecanoe County Prosecutor Pat Harrington said 49-year-old Ronald Corbin was sentenced to 35 years in prison.

As News 18 previously reported in October 2012, Corbin was linked to armed robberies at the Lafayette Savings Bank on Twyckekham Boulevard and the Huntington Bank on Teal Road.

He has also been connected to a robbery at the Regions Bank in Frankfort.

In December 2013, Corbin pleaded guilty to a series of bank robberies in Illinois.

January 29, 2014: WLFI-TV

Battery charges for man who knocked out fellow inmate

Written by Alexandra Kruczek

TIPPECANOE CO., Ind. (WLFI) – A battery charge is filed after prosecutors said a man knocked out a fellow inmate at the Tippecanoe County Jail.

Prosecutors said Quinton Newsom hit another inmate after an argument in October of 2013. They said jail video shows Newsom approaching the man, arguing with him and then knocking him out.

They said the video shows he dragged the man to Newsom's own cell leaving a trail of blood he later cleaned up.

Prosecutors said the video also shows Newsom later helped the man to the cell he was supposed to be in.

January 27, 2014: WLFI-TV

3 teens sentenced for campus robberies



Written by Dan Klein

WEST LAFAYETTE, Ind. (WLFI) – Three teenagers were sentenced to prison time Friday after four robberies near Purdue's campus in 2012.

Walter Jones, 19, got a 14-year sentence including nine years in prison after pleading guilty to three counts of robbery.

Marqese Estrada, 19, and 18-year-old Claude Moore both pleaded guilty to two counts of robbery and got lighter sentences including five years in prison for Estrada and four years in prison for Moore.

The three men robbed their victims during a four-day stretch of October 2012.

As News 18 previously reported, each victim was attacked and robbed from behind while walking on campus.

January 24, 2014: Lafayette Journal and Courier

Not guilty plea entered, bond denied for suspect in killing of Purdue student

Written by Ron Wilkins and Justin L. Mack

Purdue University student Cody Cousins appeared Thursday afternoon before Tippecanoe County Magistrate Sean Persin on one charge of murder and learned that he might face between 45 and 65 years in prison if convicted of shooting and stabbing a fellow engineering student.

Cousins, 23, tilted his head slightly down toward the defense table and appeared to close his eyes as the specific allegation that he killed Andrew Boldt, 21, of West Bend, Wis., was read. The rest of the hearing, Cousins sat upright and looked directly at Persin as he answered yes or no to the magistrate's questions.

During the initial hearing, Cousins was told of his rights and possible consequences if convicted. If there are no mitigating or aggravating factors, he would face a 55-year term.

The magistrate said the case might be eligible for Indiana's capital punishment — death, or life in prison — but that enhanced charge has not been filed.

Persin entered a not guilty plea and denied bond for Cousins.

- LISTEN: Police respond to shooting at Purdue University

The crime

According to court documents filed earlier in the day, West Lafayette and Purdue police responded shortly after noon Tuesday to a report of shots fired inside the Purdue Electrical Engineering Building.

A West Lafayette police officer saw Cousins sitting on the ground outside the building with his hands behind his head. The officer observed blood on Cousins' hands and clothes. He surrendered to police without incident.

Court documents allege that officers who entered the building saw bloody footprints in the area of Room 067. Inside the classroom, police found Boldt's body. He had been shot and stabbed, police said. Officers recovered a handgun, a knife and several spent shell casings near the body.

Witnesses in the room identified Cousins as the assailant, and surveillance footage showed Cousins in the building, according to the probable cause affidavit filed with the charge. The document does not include witness statements or allude to possible motives.

- RAW VIDEO: Arrest made after Purdue fatal shooting

Recollections

In the wake of the shooting, those who had contact with Cousins, an engineering student who lived off campus, provided conflicting recollections of him. While some described Cousins as easygoing, others describe him as sometimes disagreeable, even rude.

Jason Clark, a Purdue adjunct assistant professor, taught Cousins in his ECE 202 class, Linear Circuit Analysis, in fall 2012.

"I recall that he was an intensely serious student by his demeanor," Clark said. "He did not mingle much with others and he rarely asked questions."

Clark said Cousins did not visit him during office hours but frequently attended optional exam review sessions.

"In my limited interaction with Cody, I did not notice anything about him that made me think that he might later commit such a violent act," Clark said. "Otherwise, I would have reported my concern."

Ashley Eidsmore, a graduate teaching assistant in the engineering school, told Associated Press that some of her lab mates who worked closely with Cousins complained that he was a "just all-around rude individual."

Purdue professor Thomas Talavage, who worked with Cousins, told the AP that Cousins "didn't like to be told he was wrong."

"He tended to be more aggressive in his debating and tended to be more convinced he was right," Talavage said, later adding that such traits are not at all unusual among electrical engineering students, who are under tremendous pressure to succeed.

Cousins and Boldt were undergraduate teaching assistants in separate courses, both taught by the same professor.

- MORE: Complete collection of stories

'Struggling as well'

During Thursday's hearing, Cousins' mother, Wendy Melancon, his sister and his father, Ernest Cousins, sat a few feet away, separated from Cousins by a brick and glass wall and a locked steel door. Cousins' family entered the small room a few minutes before the media was allowed into the room, and Cousins glanced over at them briefly before the hearing started, but he did not attempt to communicate.

His mother and sister sat with arms laced together, leaning slightly in on each other, holding hands for support. None of the family spoke to media immediately before or after the hearing. Cousins' attorney, Robert Gever of Fort Wayne, made a brief statement afterward.

"I just met with his family," Gever said. "They are obviously struggling as well. Our hearts and their hearts are full of compassion and concern for the Purdue family and the family of Mr. Boldt.

"We will proceed in providing this young man, Mr. Cousins, with the best defense we can," he said.

At the end of the hearing, Persin set a trial date of April 22.

January 24, 2014: WLFI-TV

Cousins enters preliminary plea of not guilty

Written by Alexandra Kruczek

TIPPECANOE COUNTY, Ind. (WLFI) – Cody Cousins, accused in the stabbing and shooting death of Purdue student Andrew Boldt, entered a preliminary plea of not guilty Thursday.

Court documents released Thursday revealed that Boldt had suffered stab wounds. Documents also revealed that a handgun was found nearby with spent shell casings.

Cousins has been charged with murder and could spend between 45 to 65 years behind bars. The jury trial has been set for April 22.

January 23, 2014: Lafayette Journal and Courier

West Lafayette man face charges of child exploitation and child pornography

Written by Emily Campion

Courtney B. Crenshaw of West Lafayette was formally charged with three counts of child exploitation and one count of child pornography Wednesday in Tippecanoe Superior Court 2.

According to the probable cause affidavit, the West Lafayette Police Department used ARES computer network — a peer-to-peer file sharing network that allows users to share files, such as video and photographs — to download several partial files with a particular IP address with titles alluding to sexual actions with underage female victims. Police traced the IP address to the residence of Crenshaw, 23.

On Jan. 14, police went to Crenshaw's residence, where he admitted to downloading pornography several times a week using terms commonly used to search for child pornography. Crenshaw also told police he shared pornography on the ARES network.

Crenshaw stated he was "pretty sure" there was child pornography on his computer and/or external hard drive, but said he never searched specifically for child pornography, according to court documents.

Police then seized several digital devices from Crenshaw's residence. The department's technician found numerous videos constituting child pornography on an external hard drive.

Crenshaw was held in Tippecanoe County Jail from Jan. 14 to Jan. 16, when he posted bond.

Child exploitation is deemed a Class C felony, and child pornography is classified as a Class D felony.

January 23, 2014: Lafayette Journal and Courier

West Lafayette man faces two counts of child molesting

Written by Emily Campion

A West Lafayette man was formally charged Wednesday in Tippecanoe Superior Court 1 for two counts of child molesting involving a child under the age of 14.

Clifton M. Wilkins Jr., 51, faces two Class C felonies, each possibly resulting in two to eight years upon conviction.

According to the affidavit of probable cause, a Lafayette Police Department investigator interviewed the minor, who disclosed that on several occasions Wilkins acted with sexual intent toward the minor.

Wilkins is being held at Tippecanoe County Jail with \$100,000 surety and \$10,000 cash bond.

January 23, 2014: WLFI-TV

Lafayette woman found with 'ice' down her pants

A Lafayette woman faces methamphetamine possession and dealing charges after a traffic stop on Wednesday.

Prosecutors said the Lafayette Police Department made a routine traffic stop at Greenbush and N. Ninth Streets 6 p.m. on Wednesday. One officer involved noticed the passenger Bonny Ahlrich, 51, of Lafayette reaching into her purse after LPD had told her not to do so.

They asked if Ahlrich had weapons and she allowed officers to search her purse. Upon further investigation of the bag, the officer found several empty stamp-sized baggies, commonly used for packaging controlled substances.

A K-9 officer arrived at the scene and confirmed the presence of narcotics. Authorities said when asked, Ahlrich told officers there was nothing illegal in the vehicle, but officers noted suspicious behavior as something may be concealed on her person.

LPD conducted a further search of Ahlrich and her clothing. At one point during the search, she jumped back from the officer and admitted, when asked, to having "ice" on her. Police found more than five grams of meth that Ahlrich had hidden in the front of her pants.

Prosecutors said Ahlrich later told to police she was using meth again and selling the drug "because it was easy money." She admitted that she had sold methamphetamine before that night and that she intended to sell most of the baggie that officers had found.

Ahlrich was charged with two Class A Felonies for possession of methamphetamine and dealing in methamphetamine.

According to prosecutors, Ahlrich was convicted in October 2005 of possession of heroin and possession of cocaine. In September 2004, she was convicted of possession of marijuana.

Cousins expected in court this week

Written by Alexandra Kruczek

TIPPECANOE COUNTY, Ind. (WLFI) – Cody Cousins will have his initial court appearance at the Tippecanoe County Jail Thursday afternoon at 2:00 p.m.

Cousins was originally scheduled to have a hearing Wednesday afternoon, but according to the Tippecanoe County Jail that has been rescheduled.

Cousins is being held without bond on a preliminary charge of murder. He is accused of shooting and killing 21-year-old Andrew Boldt on Purdue's campus on Tuesday.

January 3, 2014: Lafayette Journal and Courier

Lafayette man tossed from strip club later held 5 at gunpoint in home



Written by Justin Mack

The Lafayette man who reportedly held his friends and family at gunpoint last week was high on spice and fuming from getting kicked out of a local strip club, court documents allege.

A dozen criminal charges were filed Thursday in Tippecanoe Circuit Court against 21-year-old Herbert M. Kochell II, including multiple counts of criminal confinement, battery and intimidation.

He also faces a misdemeanor charges of possession of a synthetic drug or synthetic drug lookalike.

According to a probable cause affidavit filed with the charges, officers from the Lafayette Police Department were called to a domestic dispute at 711 S. Fourth St. about 1:26 a.m. Saturday.

Upon arrival, officers were flagged down by a friend of Kochell's. She said Kochell was holding people against their will and firing a handgun inside the house. The 911 call to police came from Kochell's sister, who had barricaded herself in a bedroom.

Police reported that Kochell was holding at least five people hostage in the home, including his wife and his sister.

Witness reports indicate that a group of friends was returning to the home after getting kicked out of Danzer's Show Club. Kochell, who reportedly smoked spice and drank alcohol earlier in the evening, still was upset about getting tossed from the strip club.

He then allegedly went to his bedroom and got his .380-caliber handgun. When he walked back into the living room, he began pointing the weapon at people in the house.

Police reported that Kochell struck his wife with his hand and warned her that he would shoot her if she didn't listen to him. He then told everyone, "I'm the boss."

When Kochell's sister tried to intervene, he reportedly pistol-whipped her in the face. She then ran to her bedroom, and Kochell tried to break down the door.

At one point, Kochell allegedly fired a warning shot in the direction of the laundry room, where a male friend was hiding. After the round was fired, at least three hostages were able to escape the house and get in touch with police.

The Lafayette Emergency Response Team and Hostage Negotiators were called in after attempts to get Kochell to come out were unsuccessful. They established contact, and he surrendered without incident about 3:50 a.m. Saturday.

When searching the residence, officers found a bullet hole in the laundry room wall, and a second bullet hole in one of the bedrooms. They also found about 130 grams of spice, a digital scale and a number of pellet guns or air pistols.

While looking for weapons and rounds, they located Kochell's handgun, a shell casing in the living room and a spent round in the laundry room.

As of Thursday night, Kochell was being held in Tippecanoe County Jail on a bond of \$25,000 surety and \$2,500 cash.

January 2, 2014: WLFI TV

Two plead guilty in grade-changing scheme



By Brittany Tyner

TIPPECANOE COUNTY, Ind. (WLFI) - Two of the three Purdue students charged for changing their grades while they were students at Purdue University pleaded guilty Monday.

Tippecanoe County Prosecutor Pat Harrington said Roy Sun pleaded guilty to three charges, including two counts of computer tampering and one count of conspiracy to commit computer tampering, which are all felonies. He could be sentenced to four years.

Sujay Sharma pleaded guilty to one count of conspiracy to commit computer tampering. He could be sentenced up to three years.

As News 18 reported in June, investigators said Sun, Sharma, and a third student, Mitsutoshi Shirasaki, stole passwords from professor's keyboards and then changed their grades. The three men faced a combined total of 43 criminal charges.

Harrington said Shirasaki is believed to be in Japan and is wanted on a warrant. Harrington has submitted a request to federal authorities to file an unlawful flight to avoid prosecution charge against Shirasaki.

Sun is scheduled to be sentenced on Feb. 27 and Sharma's sentencing is set for Feb. 24.